

Ampleforth Diary



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Ampleforth Society Report of the Trustees

The Trustees of the Ampleforth Society held their Spring meeting on 17th April, attended by Fr Gabriel as Prior Administrator and Acting Superior of Ampleforth.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Trustees to communicate to Fr Gabriel the concerns expressed to the Trustees by many members of the Society about recent events at Ampleforth, and also to reassure him that the Society and wider Ampleforth family still retains deep goodwill and loyalty to Ampleforth.

Fr Gabriel acknowledged the criticism with humility and the goodwill with gratitude and kindly took the time to discuss these concerns and the remedies he is seeking to enact. He asked the Trustees to pass his comments on to all members of the Society. The current crisis at Ampleforth, which started with the stepping aside of Fr Cuthbert as Abbot in August 2016, brought to the

surface weaknesses in leadership, organisation and communication due to carrying too many responsibilities which made the organisation vulnerable. Fr Gabriel acknowledged these and expressed sincere regret at the consequences.

The Abbot is the duly elected leader and key to any Benedictine community. For over a year and a half and without notice or preparation, it is Fr Gabriel's view that Fr Terence then Prior (whose role is to be responsible for the day-to-day care of the monastic community), shouldered the burden and the challenges of leadership, with a patience, cheerfulness and resilience of saintly proportion. Fr Gabriel was appointed as the properly constituted Prior Administrator and Acting Superior of Ampleforth on 13th February. As the Abbot's stand-in he is working with the monastic community to provide spiritual leadership to Ampleforth. He is supported at the governance level by dedicated lay professionals and advisers to the

Ampleforth Abbey Trust, the St Laurence Education Trust, and by friends in the Ampleforth Society.

Fr Gabriel is already taking remedial steps to ensure Ampleforth has a sustainable future. He first shared out many of his responsibilities amongst the brethren. Fr George is now Sub-Prior dealing with the day-to-day running of the Monastery, Fr Christopher looks after the Infirmary, Fr Kevin heads up Hospitality and other duties have also been delegated.

This has enabled Fr Gabriel to focus on his three key priorities: spiritual leadership, safeguarding and long-term strategic development.

Jeremy Deedes (W73)
Managing Trustee
The Ampleforth Society
www.ampleforth.org.uk/society/

WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of the *Ampleforth Diary* – and this year winter certainly seems to have been a longer one than in recent years, with snow causing havoc and disruption well into what we usually call ‘Spring’!

The title of one of the most well-known documents of the Second Vatican Council comes to mind at the moment, ‘Gaudium et Spes,’ and its opening sentence gives plenty of food for thought: “The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people

of our time ... are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well.”

The *Ampleforth Diary* is, I believe, a wonderful reflection of the joys and hopes of much of what goes on at Ampleforth. The moving tributes to Fr Francis Dobson – and the ones contained herein are just a tiny portion of those received – are

testimony to what he himself wrote in this very publication two years ago about the uncertainty, fear and grace of the diagnosis of cancer he had received: “Actually, it is to ... no longer seek to be important,

to have nothing but the gifts of the Lord. St Philip Neri said “A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one.””

And as we mourn the death of Fr Francis, and that of Francis Davidson, too, who died recently, we are joyful and give thanks to God

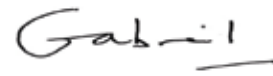
for the Solemn Profession of Br Benedict, due to take place in the Abbey Church at the beginning of May. Please pray that God may bless Br Benedict on that day, and fill him with the grace and strength to respond daily to His call.

The *Ampleforth Diary*, too, offers a snapshot of some of the activities in the school, and in this edition

you can read a lot about sport, but also the perhaps less well-known SHACworks – an opportunity for students to undertake community work in York: a clear encounter with the joys, hopes, and anguish of the people of our time.

Thank you for the correspondence about refectory reading, about which there is another article in this edition of the *Ampleforth Diary*. The Spirit is clearly at work, for on the day we finished the latest book in the refectory the Holy See published Pope Francis’ document *Gaudete et Exsultate, On the Call to Holiness in Today’s World!* More food for thought!

Be assured that you will be remembered in our prayers, and please pray that the voice of the Lord calling young people to a life of prayer and service may be heard and that vocations to the priesthood and religious life may continue.



Fr Gabriel Everitt OSB
Prior Administrator



“THE *AMPLEFORTH DIARY* IS, I BELIEVE, A WONDERFUL REFLECTION OF THE JOYS AND HOPES OF MUCH OF WHAT GOES ON AT AMPLEFORTH.”

Fr Francis Dobson OSB (D57)

Fr Francis Dobson died peacefully in the Monastery Infirmary at Ampleforth on 9th January 2018, at the age of 78. He had known for 18 months that he was dying from cancer of the prostate, which had begun to spread to his bones. Writing about his diagnosis, he wrote in the last *Ampleforth Diary*: “On 14th June 2016, I learnt of illness; a stunning uncertainty, fear and beautiful grace, that I had nothing and could be at Peace. Actually, it is to...no longer seek to be important, to have nothing but the gifts of the Lord. St Philip Neri said ‘A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one.’”

In that article in the *Ampleforth Diary* he summarised his life story. He was born in Nottinghamshire in 1939 and was a life-long supporter of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club. He came to Gilling in 1947, at the age of eight. He carried on through Junior House and then into St Dunstan’s House where his Housemaster was the redoubtable Fr Oswald Vanheems.

After leaving the school he trained as a chartered accountant and eventually went to work for Price Waterhouse in London and then in Johannesburg. He joined the monastery in 1967 with Br Christopher and two others who did not persevere. He took solemn vows in 1971 and from 1970 to 1972 studied at St Benet’s Hall and Plater College, taking a diploma in Social Studies. From 1972 to 2007 he taught Politics, Religious Studies, History and General Studies, and also helped with the Junior House scouts.

He was ordained deacon in 1975 and priest the following year. He was then sent to gain pastoral experience, first at Knaresborough and then at Leyland (six months in each), before returning to the Abbey to resume

teaching and to run the stationery shop. He used to be the regular stand-in for all the Housemasters, and then was a House Chaplain in St Aidan’s, St Dunstan’s, St Edward’s and finally St Cuthbert’s for most of the last 25 years.

Fr Francis managed to combine teaching and deputising for Housemasters with a bewildering array of other jobs: Assistant Novice Master, Business Manager of the Journal, in charge of boys going to Lourdes, Chaplain of Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, accompanying various expeditions including to the Lake District.

He was in charge of the School Shop, in charge of preparation for Confirmation, coordinator of 19 Medjugorje pilgrimages, Chaplain to the School Infirmary, Assistant Head of Religious Studies, Vice President of Common Room, Second Guest Master, organiser of the Headmaster’s Lectures, Hon Gen Secretary of the Ampleforth Society, coach 3rd XI cricket, and most memorably, the coordinator of Ampleforth FACE-FAW (Friendship and Aid to Central & Eastern Europe and Friendship and Aid World).

Numerous messages of thanks and condolence have arrived from many organisations helped by FACE-FAW, including those in Romania and in Africa. Over the years countless students have been inspired to do something helpful in their gap year by working with FACE-FAW partners. Helping Mary’s Meals feed schoolchildren in the poorest countries was one of the organisations that inspired Fr Francis,

and his enthusiasm was infectious.

Fr Francis made over 80 pilgrimages to Lourdes and 20 to Medjugorje. In 1989 he was made a Titular member of the Hospitalité de Notre Dame de Lourdes, and in July 2009 the Bishop of Lourdes and Tarbes appointed him an Honorary Chaplain of the Lourdes Grotto.

For a long time Fr Francis occupied the small classroom right at the top of the clocktower, but eventually he moved to the new Bamford Centre when it was built, and then finally he was normally to be found in the FACE-FAW office just off the Main Hall, where he continued to pursue all his interests

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simultaneously. Even right at the end in his sick room in the Infirmary, he was quite capable of having his computer showing the live feed from Medjugorje or Walsingham and at the same

time the TV broadcasting the latest disasters from the Test Match from Australia.

He was a warm and lovable man, though he could also be frustrating. He would start a conversation half-way through, his driving was frankly terrifying, his singing was hopeless, his homilies could be mystifying, and he could be awkward, disheveled and clumsy in public. And yet deep down it was clear that Fr Francis was a man committed to Christ and to his Blessed Mother; he was dedicated to caring for the poor, and he was always looking for new and better ways to spread the Gospel, especially among the students here at Ampleforth. May he rest in peace.





FACE-FAW

I had the immense privilege of working with Fr Francis for two years as his Deputy for FACE-FAW. To do so only confirmed what I had learned during my previous friendship with him: boundless enthusiasm - one of his more infectious traits. He was always positive about proposals from students or myself, no matter how far-fetched, wanting to affirm the initiative even when he might know from experience that nothing would come of it. This was rooted I think in his courtesy, a sincere respect for others and for the spirit of good in them. Where I might be tired of half-baked proposals, I was humbled by his generosity of spirit; if offence was given or received in our working relationship, it was always he who was first to retract, first to seek to heal any friction.

His enthusiasm reached out also of course to the numerous projects that FACE-FAW supported. There were lengthy correspondences with Tanzania, Ethiopia, Romania, Ecuador, with Mary's Meals and homeless projects in York or Middlesbrough. Every endeavour supported by FACE-FAW could feel cherished, and would have known that the funds being sent were not just the product of generic 'giving

to charity,' but were passed on with sincere interest and goodwill.

This is not to ignore the eccentricities of his working style. Rare was the receipt of a single email - one usually got a series, each correcting its predecessor, or adding a reminiscence, a new calculation, or a cricket score. Promoting FACE-FAW within the school was a particular concern of his, with which went his insistence on brand consistency. Students would be given a string of up to 50 slides for presentation at Assemblies, with a running script the logic of which was sometimes, to be frank, baffling.

And then there was his passion for Wisden and Medjugorje and socks.

What I saw above all in Fr Francis was that things were never, ever, about him. I saw that he was concerned not for his own status or interests, and was secretly always rooting for the other person, and underneath it all for God, for love of Whom he wrote so movingly in an earlier issue of the Ampleforth Diary, and for whom - though not without struggles and anxieties - he so joyfully lived in the guise of 'holy fool.'

Richard Hudson (W84)

I'm pretty sure that Fr Francis first became involved with FACE-FAW back in 1993, though it is not always easy to be sure about anything concerning Fr Francis. Back then, it was just called FACE: Friendship and Aid for Central and Eastern Europe. Fr Francis soon added the FAW: Friendship and Aid for the World, to include Ampleforth's other aid work, especially in Africa.

I suppose for many, the name of Ampleforth's school charity is strangely convoluted, but as Fr Francis eloquently put it, this name expresses "accurately and beautifully what it was - the word 'friendship' expressed the motivation, the word 'aid' the response, the action." He also sensed, I think, that FACE-FAW was an implicit invitation to be open to others from all corners of the globe.

Fr Francis was still motivating students to action until the last weeks of his life. He had been helping to organise the FACE-FAW rock concert in December 2017 and, more remarkably, was raised from his sick-bed to a wheelchair, so that he could facilitate the collections from the school carol concerts. This final fundraising effort was directed towards Mary's Meals (a charity that helps feed, for a year, school children in Africa), and Fr Francis was extremely excited by news that everything we raised, if received before a 31st December deadline, would be doubled by the government. This seemed to give him an additional mental energy, even as physically he was weakening. In total he helped to raise £12,687 towards feeding 999 children at our partner school

Chigwaja Primary in Malawi. News of this sum reached me on 18th December 2017; it was the last email that I received from him.

Since his death, the students have been determined to carry on his great work. This April, they will be taking part in a 'colour run' to raise funds for a project in Zanzibar in collaboration with the Bishop of Zanzibar. Students have designed T-shirts printed with Francis' face; they will be wearing these as they complete the run and have all colours of paint flung at them! We hope that this will be in some way a fitting tribute to a monk who brought so much colour to our lives: we think Fr Francis would cherish the idea in any case.

While FACE-FAW has supported various projects in Zanzibar since 2006, we are specifically donating towards the construction of a new male ward at the St Camillus dispensary, Tomondo, which will be dedicated in memory of Fr Francis. The students have other fundraising initiatives coming to fruition next term: 25 students will be running in the Yorkshire Warrior - a 10-15km endurance run with obstacles of varying degrees of unpleasantness - there will be a swim-along-to-the-sound-of-music event, which will be about as mad as it sounds, the annual croquet tournament at Exhibition, a sleep-out for the homeless, an abseil off the Abbey Church and more I am sure, but it is hoped that something of Fr Francis' spirit will always live on with FACE-FAW.

Dan Davison (O00)



"IT IS HOPED THAT SOMETHING OF FR FRANCIS' SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS LIVE ON WITH FACE-FAW"





MY FIRST TERM IN

by Dr Johannes Depnering, Housemaster

ST HUGH'S HOUSE

In January 2018, I started as the seventh Housemaster of St Hugh's House since it opened in 1956. I was previously Assistant Housemaster in St Oswald's and a Tutor in St Dunstan's, and thus had a good idea of boarding life at Ampleforth. What I did not expect is how well my ideas for the house would match the existing culture and spirit of St Hugh's.

When I recently interviewed the Year 12 boys as part of the application process for Probationary Monitor roles, I asked a key question: "What does St Hugh's stand for?" I was impressed by the answers I received, expressing precisely what I think the house really represents, which can be summarised in three categories.

First, commitment and community: If we do something as a house, we do it properly and until it is finished - be it as a member of the team or as a supporter. The boys' loyalty and identification with St Hugh's is strong; they are proud of each other, no matter if the other person is performing a song or playing on the rugby pitch. Community also means spiritual

community, and it means a lot to me to see how seriously the boys take spiritual questions, prayers and Mass.

Second, variety and winning: St Hugh's is an all-rounder house. The boys are not necessarily specialists in all fields, but, as a whole, cover an enormous range of interests, including the sciences and arts, music, drama, cooking and of course sports. Whatever it is, the boys try to give their absolute best. This is especially true when it comes to competitions and, almost as a side effect, St Hugh's tends to win rather frequently (which is probably where the chant 'Hugh's, Hugh's, never lose' originates from).

Third, unity and home: Many of the boys describe the community in the house as 'basically family.' St Hugh's has become an important part of their identity, a home from home. Particularly in the evenings, boys across all years are mingling, be it on the AstroTurf or in the kitchen. Obviously, boys love socialising over good food, which is why we added more whole-house socials, for example, *Waffle Sunday*. There is still an element of 'hierarchy' between the year groups, but today it has become

a positive gesture of courtesy and respect, for example, leaving House Lunch in a specific order.

The boys have learnt that I am honest, fair and always encouraging, but also that I set my expectations high. I see the enormous potential of the boys. One of my main interests, therefore, is to keep igniting their personal love of learning and curiosity, and show them how knowledge and skills leads to opportunities in life - certainly academic skills, but also 'gentlemen' skills (my goal is that no boy leaves the house without knowing how to tie a bow tie).

St Hugh's is a strong house of tradition and character, and I will work hard to ensure it flourishes. I am very much looking forward to the next years as Housemaster.



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**The Historic England list entry description reads:*

'Footbridge. c1854, restored c1930. Rusticated limestone ashlar. Single span across road with second arch built into the slope of the bank, a further third arch formerly led down into the Abbey precinct, but this has been demolished. Stepped parapet, rebuilt at top c1930. The bridge post-dates a Royal Proclamation issued 15th June 1854 forbidding the wearing of Catholic vestments and ornaments in public, for the bridge was designed to link the abbey with the cemetery on Ampleforth Bank.'

Last year we announced our partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a £4 million project, titled 'Extending the Ampleforth Welcome.' Providing the remaining £500K in match-funding is achieved, the completed project will address much-needed repairs to the Grade I Abbey Church, Walker Organ and the Grade II listed Monks' Bridge and will develop the overall experience for all visitors to the Valley.

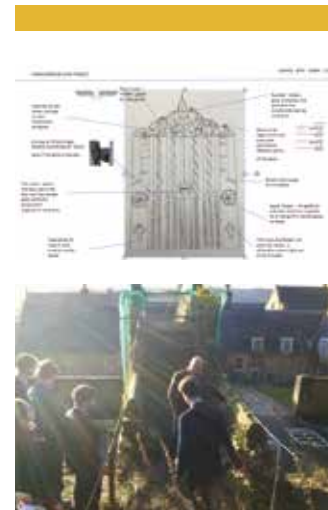
To initiate the project, the HLF issued the first phase of their support with a development grant and stage one pass in February 2017 and this phase has seen the appointment of a number of experts and consultants. One such collaboration is with architects Simpson and Brown, in association with Rogerson Ltd, who were appointed to provide a design for Monks' Bridge. The restoration of the historic footbridge will incorporate a new staircase and provide access from the south side of the road.

Discussions with Design and Technology tutors Brendan Anglim and Jonathan Hart highlighted an opportunity to involve Year 12 Design and Technology students in designing iron gates for the entrance to the new staircase to the bridge. Kevin Kaley (HLF Project Manager) and John Sanders (partner at Simpson and Brown Architects) briefed the class on the historical context* of the Grade II structure and encouraged them to think about the functional requirements of a gate and the design influences they might capture from the buildings or landscape around them.

Students Harry Parnis England (C), Sophie Hatschek (M), Ellie Perry (M), Lydia Hopkins (A), Marie-Sophie Matyk (A), Guillermo Albert (J), Seth Higgins (C) and Gonzalo Gangoiti (C), were given an opportunity to climb on to the bridge as part of the briefing process. The class, split into two groups, were given just two weeks to research and develop their designs, during which they visited Topp and Co to discover more about wrought ironwork design and construction.

Jonathan Hart said: "the students found this project to be a positive, informative and enjoyable experience, and a glimpse into the real world of design and heritage management."

The two designs were presented to Kevin Kaley and John Sanders at the beginning of February 2018 and reactions were very positive. "I was really impressed with both designs," said Kevin Kaley. "It was good to see that they had listened well to the brief and sought inspiration from the surrounding natural and built heritage." John Sanders added: "there are lots of really good elements which we will take forward in the design of the new access to the bridge."





“READING WILL ALWAYS ACCOMPANY THE MEALS OF THE BROTHERS”

Refectory Reading

Four years ago an article appeared in the *Ampleforth Diary* about the reading in the Monastery Refectory. To everyone’s surprise this provoked a good deal of correspondence, with many people suggesting books that could be tried in the monastery.

The background is, of course, what St Benedict wrote in Chapter 38 of his Rule: “reading will always accompany the meals of the brothers.” There is no talking at meals (unless it is perhaps a feast day when there is a celebratory meal). At both lunch and supper we read a short passage from the New Testament first, and then the reader turns to the other book that is being read. We don’t read novels, and we try to choose the sort of book that will be interesting to a wide selection of the monastic community, bearing in mind that it still needs to be comprehensible if someone misses a meal or two.

We used to read the same book at both lunch and supper, but now

that the monks have moved to Bolton House, we have two books running simultaneously: one for our suppers at Bolton House and one for lunch in the main refectory in the central building. We have tried to have something vaguely religious at Bolton House, and a book of more general interest in the main refectory.

In Bolton House we began by reading the document *New Wine, New Wineskins* from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, summarising the situation and challenges for religious life since Vatican II. We then moved on to William Whyte’s book, *Unlocking the Church*. This was a fascinating account of the cultural shift in the mid-nineteenth century that produced the Gothic revival and the remodelling of so many churches. Next followed Neil Ormerod’s book, *A Public God*. Ormerod teaches Theology in Australia and is a determined opponent of Richard Dawkins and other modern atheists. He set in this

book to defend natural theology: it is possible to argue for the existence of God. Finally we moved on to Michael Buckley’s book, *What do you seek? The questions of Jesus as challenge and promise*. Buckley takes some of the many questions that Jesus asks his disciples in St John’s Gospel and reflects on them.

In the main refectory we read Giles Tremlett’s *Isabella of Castile: Europe’s first great queen*. Isabella was the mother of Catherine of Aragon, wife of Henry VIII. The book was a fascinating, though bloodthirsty account of the unification of Spain, the expulsion of the Moors and the beginnings of the colonisation of America. Much later we read three books that gave a more negative view of European colonisation. First we read Andrea Wulf’s *The Invention of Nature: the adventures of Alexander von Humboldt, the lost hero of science*. Humboldt explored South America and deplored the damage done to the local ecology by the European settlers in Venezuela. Secondly we read Shashi Tharoor’s *Inglorious Empire*:

what the British did to India. This book was a sustained critique of British imperialism. Finally we listened to Maya Jasanoff’s *The Dawn watch: Joseph Conrad in a Global World*, a literary biography of the Polish-born seaman who became a wonderful novelist in English. The background to his best novels is the challenge of living in a strange land, whether Borneo, the Belgian Congo, or south America.

Other books we read include Caroline Shenton’s *Mr Barry’s war: rebuilding the Houses of Parliament after the Great Fire of 1834*. Charles Barry had to fight both the stingy MPs to get the money to rebuild Parliament, and Augustus Welby Pugin, who was responsible for the interiors. It was an appropriate book to read as our Parliamentarians continue to debate how to renovate their building, and as we ourselves prepared to evacuate temporarily our Victorian home. We also read Lyndal Roper’s *Martin Luther: renegade and prophet during 2017*, the five-hundredth anniversary of his famous 39 theses.

We read Volume 2 of Charles Moore’s biography of Margaret Thatcher, and learned there is to be a Volume 3. Turning to an earlier period, we read Thomas Williams’ *Viking Britain: an exploration*. Williams demonstrates that the relationship between the Norse raiders and the British was more complicated than we often think. Trading was as important as raiding. And we also read Chris Renwick’s book, *Bread for all: the origins of the Welfare State*. This turned out to be a fascinating account of attitudes to the poor from the early nineteenth century onwards.

It has often been remarked that the sort of books we read are the just the ones that most of us would never get round to taking out of the library. And yet they turn out to be so interesting and rewarding. The monks would welcome your recommendations of books that you have already read, or which you have seen reviewed. Please contact the Abbot’s Office on 01439 766700 or email prior@ampleforth.org.uk.



Paintings by FR MARTIN HAIGH OSB

The last edition of the *Ampleforth Diary* included a keepsake brochure featuring a selection of Fr Martin Haigh's paintings, which were released for sale in October 2017. We were astounded by the level of interest in the paintings and are delighted, and most grateful, to have raised over £48,000 towards the work of the Ampleforth Abbey Trust.

The 26 masterpieces were displayed in Big Passage during the Ampleforth Society weekend in September; oils and pastels were resplendent under ambient lighting and the evening was immersed in a buzz of appreciative chatter. Conversations during the exhibition followed similar themes; the same themes that continued throughout subsequent weeks of the sale that not only acknowledged the versatility of Fr Martin's artistic talent but most of all, memories of Fr Martin himself - his residency in Liverpool, his dedication to the Lourdes pilgrimage and of course, nostalgia for his days as Housemaster of St Bede's from 1963 to 1981.

The Community are delighted that each and every painting has been rehomed with members of our extended Ampleforth family, each with their own personal sentiment for Fr Martin and devotion to Ampleforth Abbey.

The release of Fr Martin's artwork generated an unprecedented amount of interest, with the final hours of the sale in particular being extremely busy! For those of you who missed an opportunity to purchase original artwork, you may be heartened to know that another selection of paintings will be launched for sale in August this year, concluding on highest offers again in October. If you wish to register an early interest in the sale, please contact Ellie Wadsworth on +44 (0)1439 741088 or at ellie.wadsworth@ampleforth.org.uk. Please don't be dissuaded by thoughts of competing offers; the value and popularity may vary for each piece, so every offer is worth submitting.

As there are fewer paintings available than perhaps would be in demand, we are pleased to offer another opportunity to own samples of Fr Martin's artwork. Prints and postcards featuring some of the 2017 images will be available to purchase from the Abbey Shop in the summer and we hope this gives everyone the chance to cherish a piece of Fr Martin's creativity.

Fr Martin's photograph was taken by Michael Dunne (A46).





“THE COMMUNITY ARE DELIGHTED THAT EACH AND EVERY PAINTING HAS BEEN REHOMED TO MEMBERS OF OUR EXTENDED AMPLEFORTH FAMILY, EACH WITH THEIR OWN PERSONAL SENTIMENT FOR FR MARTIN AND DEVOTION TO AMPLEFORTH ABBEY.”

Our vision to extend the Ampleforth welcome continues to be rolled out across the college with our increasing emphasis on bursary provision. In true reflection of the Benedictine values, we aim to open more doors and realise further opportunities for those who, without a bursary, would not be fortunate enough to receive an Ampleforth education and benefit from the unique moral and spiritual code – the Compass for Life – that so many of you will be familiar with.

Our intention is to increase bursary provision for children who may not have the means to fund a place at Ampleforth, but demonstrate qualities and talents that would help them to excel during their time in the Valley. We also plan to ring-fence ten full bursary places for the Sixth Form.

For two weeks in July last year, we ran our first Telethon and our team of callers, themselves recent Ampleforth leavers, reached out to Old Amplefordians to raise awareness of our Bursary Fund. We were delighted by the response to the Telethon, during which many stories and memories of the College were shared and in addition to this, £53,375 was pledged towards our Bursary Fund and Annual Fund over the next four years, by many of those we spoke to.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who participated by taking the time to speak with our callers with such warmth and attentiveness and for enriching the callers' experience with your inspirational life stories and career advice.



Bursaries & Telethon

We are already making plans for our next Telethon, which this year will run from Monday 23rd July to Monday 6th August. Should you wish to know more about the Telethon and/or the Bursary Fund, please contact Ellie Wadsworth, Development Manager on +44(0)1439 741088 or via ellie.wadsworth@ampleforth.org.uk. Recent Ampleforth leavers who are interested in joining our Telethon team are also encouraged to get in touch.

Networking is commonly explicitly used in the context of building a business - finding new clients, job searching, fundraising, changing careers, seeking an internal career promotion and doing research. However, in collaboration with the Ampleforth Society and the Careers Department, a networking event between current Sixth Form students and Old Amplefordians was organised at Ampleforth College at the end of September 2017. Thirty students had the privilege of attending career presentations by seven Old Amplefordians and one non Old Amplefordian:

Kevin Anakwe (A00), Psychiatrist
Sara Anderson (A09), Accountant
Alexandra Bingley, Metropolitan Police
Teresa Burnford (A09), Vet
Patrick Tolhurst (C99), Solicitor
Dominic Mullen (A00), Entrepreneur
Oliver Roskill (H99), Film Producer
Richard Sarll (T98), Barrister

The event was a relaxed evening with an informal atmosphere to encourage students to ask questions and this was followed by a networking gathering over supper in which students held one to one conversations and discussions about the respective careers, qualifications needed and ways in which to go about getting work experience. The consistent message that came from the evening was: "Don't worry if you don't know what you would like to do now - people change careers a lot in the 21st century. Instead, concentrate on trying things, working hard and treating every opportunity as an experience to the next step."

If you are interested at getting involved with the Careers Department at the College or with helping out fellow Old Amplefordians, please contact us on 01439 766884 or Philippa.Jalland@ampleforth.org.uk.

CAREERS

Announcements

Old Amplefordian Births

- 2018**
- 19th March Rebecca and Tom Davies (W93) twin daughters, Charlotte Persephone and Alexandra Ostara
- 15th March Louise and Charlie Morshead (E00) a son, Frederick Charles Merlin
- 22nd February Teresa and George Byrne (O00) a daughter, Maria Cristina
- 30th January Eliza and Harry Lesinski (J02) a daughter, Annabella Beatrice Mary
- 12th January Kirsty and Edward King (E97), a son, George Richard Alexander
- 2017**
- 2 December Nina and Hugo Toriglioni del Cassero-Nisbett (J95) a daughter, Ilaria Grace
- 22 November Polly and Loughlinn Kennedy (D97) a daughter, Aurelia
- 27 October Michelle and Roger Harle (C01) a son, Maximilian
- 27 October Charlotte and James Maskey (D01) a daughter, Martha Rose
- 10 October Alexandra and Herman Sequeira (T06) a daughter, Rosana Amélie
- 5 September Rosie and George Burnett (D98) a son, Cosmo Aubone Louis
- 5 September Bryony and Laurence Richardson (B98) a son, Guy Rowland Aubin
- 3 September Laura and Jack Warrender (W04) a son, Alexander Mungo
- 2 October Thomas and Agnes Villwock (A03), née Neher, a daughter, Lucia Maria
- 26 August Kate and Thomas Sommer (T04) a daughter, Matilda Constance Rose
- 7 August Isabella and Sebastien Marcelin-Rice (J93) twins, George Louis Dominic and Lara Sophia Rose
- 7 August Olivia and Edward Graham (T03) a daughter, Martha Iris Molly
- 3 August Matthew and Lucy Bartlett (A04), née Codrington, a daughter, Otilie Artemis
- 25 July Hilary and Felix MacDonogh (T00) a son, Raphael Augustus Fox
- 5 July Olivia and Charlie Dalziel (B02) a daughter, Otilie Leila Rose
- 16 June Eleonore and Ian Andrews (T93) twins, Charles and Elisabeth

Old Amplefordian Marriages

- 2017**
- 11 November James Dil (D02) to Joanna Blades
- 7 October James Bradley (H00) to Elizabeth Hackett
- 28 September Nicholas Duffy (O91) to Rawaa Barnes
- 3 June Frederick Kisielewski (H07) to Flora Beaumont

Old Amplefordian Deaths

- 2018**
- 17 March Canon Digby Samuels (D66)
- 10 March Christopher Ward (E53)
- 8 March Alain Jackson (B49)
- 6 March Denis Grehan (C45)
- 5 March Charles Wolseley (C62)
- 27 February Basil Wolseley (C40)
- 27 February Peter Richmond (A45)
- 27 February Jozef Balinski-Jundzill (B48)
- 27 February Nick Bishop (W59)
- 26 February Ian Petrie (W50)
- 23 February Michael O'Connor (C46)
- 15 February Jeremy Russell (A54)
- 27 January Fr David Bingham (B50)
- 23 January John Dormer (B58)
- 9 January Fr Francis Dobson (D57)
- 4 January David Allen (O49)
- 2017**
- 19 December David Peers (O42)
- 17 December Andrew Daly (A92)
- 15 December Neville Moray (D53)
- 14 December Anthony Nevill (C55)
- 5 December Peter Laughton (C41)
- 3 December John Cummings (C56)
- 22 November David Swift (O54)
- 19 November Henry Engleheart (C48)
- 11 November Michael Cain (B61)
- 9 November Ian Guiver (A44)
- 30 October Fr Theodore Young OSB (D40)
- 28 October Philip Vickers (C47)
- 21 October Simon Cave (W56)
- 16 October Anthony Simonds-Gooding (B53)
- 4 October Frederick Bennetts (B53)
- 29 September Michael Taylor (D66)
- 27 August Ralph Dowson (O04)
- 6 August Sir Berkeley Pigott (B43)
- 26 July Ian Flanagan (D57)
- 7 July John Bianchi (D53)

Ampleforth Parent and Friend Deaths

- 2018**
- 15 January Grania Maeve Rosaura, Dowager Marchioness of Normanby, friend of Ampleforth
- 15 January Richard Gilbert, father of Timothy (A83) and William (O89)
- 15 January Judy Ghika, widow of John (O46, died 2003) and mother of Christopher (E88)
- 12 January John Willbraham, stepfather of Jozef Mycielski (O90)
- 5 January Paul Busby, father of Patrick (A84)
- 2 January Gillian Sillars, widow of Peter (D45, died 2000) and mother of Malcolm (H76)
- 2017**
- 29 December Michal Giedroyc, father of Miko (W76), grandfather of Anna (M11), Jan (EW13) and Melchior (EW13)
- 12 November Gillian Dawson, friend of Ampleforth
- 10 November Peter Swainston, father of Matthew (O87) and grandfather of Thomas (D)
- 2 November Robert Berkeley, father of Charlie (C86) and Henry (C88)
- 30 October Naomi Davidson, friend of Ampleforth
- 26 October Sir Reginald Seconde, father of Charles (O78)
- 7 October Teresa Lindemann, mother of Michael (W84) and Stefan (E86)
- 30 September William Curtis, father of William (A80) and Mark (A82)
- 9 September David Hughes, father of Anthony (E02) and Ralph (E04)
- 4 September Robert Buscall, father of Harry (J81) and Robert (J83)
- 6 August Kevin McNamara, father of Edwin (H85) and Julian (H83)
- 29 July Joanna Nevile, wife of Hugh (E79)
- 20 July Sr Eleanor Bebb, friend of Ampleforth
- 16 July Jane Morton, wife of John (C55)
- 10 February Raymonde Felter, mother of Ziad (J00) and Hicham (A01)

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION 2018

Henry Wakeham Dawson - Winner

THE ART DEPARTMENT OF AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE, HAVE RECENTLY HELD THEIR INAUGURAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION. IT WAS OPEN TO EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING ALL STAFF.



The theme for 2018 was 'Black and White' to be interpreted in any way. Each person was allowed three photos per entry.

With prizes and runners up for Year 9, Year 10/11, Year 12/13, staff and the promise of winners and runners being framed and displayed in the Main Hall, there were over 150 entries of exceptional quality and creativity, and the professional photographer and Old Amplefordian, Adrian Myers (A90), had the hard task of picking prize winners, which took place in February.

In March, some of the exhibition was displayed in the Main Hall, featuring the work of the 12 best entries.

The winners were Emma Welton (Years 12 and 13); Cici Hornyold Strickland (Years 10 and 11); Henry Wakeham Dawson (Year 9) and Mr Brendan Anglim (Staff).

Runners-up were Mrs Clare Moses, Mr Tim Walsh, Cosima Franchetti, Jordan Chapman, James Ogden, Maud Bridel, Mani Desai and Anna Scott.

Highly Commended were Mrs Rachel Dale, Lou Bore, Eliza Corrie and Cecilia Wishart.

Congratulations to everyone who took part: the standard was very high and as you can see here there is clearly lots of talent out there. We will look forward to next year's competition.



Top to bottom, left to right:
 Mani Desai - Runner Up
 Anna Scott - Runner Up
 Cecilia Wishart - Highly
 Commended
 Maud Bridel - Runner Up
 James Ogden - Runner Up
 Eliza Corrie - Highly Commended

Cici Hornoyld Strickland - Winner



Sport at Ampleforth is going from strength to strength. This year has seen the development of a new High Performance Suite, conversion of the old swimming hut into a fantastic new changing facility and the refurbishment of the current swimming pool. Over the past year the Games Department has had two key areas of focus:

1. All 1st team and A team players accessing at least one strength and conditioning session each week
2. Embedding a resilient approach to the way we coach our sports teams

Beliefs adopted by a student can have a significant impact on their achievement. If we can encourage students to adopt a growth mindset and therefore improve resilience, students will believe there is no glass ceiling to what they can achieve. They

will learn to view failure as part of the learning process and regard effort, difficulty and task persistence not as a lack of ability, but as something you must do if you want to succeed.

There have been a pleasing number of sports successes this year with notable achievements for rugby and hockey. The 1st XV rugby team had their most successful season in ten years, with nine victories in 14 matches and the U15A rugby team progressing through to the last eight schools in the country of the Natwest Plate Competition. The 1st XI boys hockey team have had an unbeaten season and the junior girls hockey section has seen the U15A girls win the Independent Schools Hockey League (beating the likes of Sedburgh, St Peter's and RGS Newcastle) and the U14A reach the Northern finals of the national hockey competition.

SPORT

AT AMPLEFORTH



When the organisation for the first Old Amplefordian Sports Weekend started to take place, I did not think that I would be running around in a skort and a ski jacket in March! Although three days before we were torn between cancelling the weekend due to the return of the 'Beast from the East' and going ahead despite the dreadful weather forecast, we decided to press ahead after coming up with a few different possibilities in case of bad weather.

On the Friday night and Saturday morning, OAs began to descend on the Valley for a day full of sport. The afternoon kicked off with the OAFc taking on the College team and the OA Ladies taking on the College 1st team netballers. The OARFC followed on shortly after with a tough game against the College boys followed by a full game against the Barbarians team they had put together.

At 1.45pm the runners lined up on the start line for the cross-country race along the Senior A course. By the end of the route the OAs came out victorious against the College. The afternoon of sport was finished off with the girls' and boys' hockey with both OA teams the winners. Everyone then headed to The Windmill to warm up and watch the final of the Six Nations.

It was wonderful to see so many OAs back in the Valley taking part in sport and spectating. To quote one OA and current parent "it really was a wonderful demonstration of the sense of community that the school teaches the kids and that we OAs feel towards the Valley."

We now hope that the OA Sports weekend will become a regular occurrence in the Ampleforth Society calendar and hope that more teams are keen to get involved after the success of the first one. Fingers crossed for better weather next time!



Philippa Jalland (M13)

SPORTS WEEKEND...



“EACH DAY, WITHIN THE CYCLE OF PRAYER AND WORK, STUDENTS, OLD AMPLEFORDIANS AND STAFF GATHER TO EAT, PLAY AND TALK, SAFE AND SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT EVERY PERSON WILL BE FACING HIS OR HER OWN CHALLENGES.”



SHACworks was set up in the Summer of 2014 and has been running annually since.

It is a week of community work during which time up to 15 Year 12 students move out of the College to live independently off site, organising their own food shopping, meal planning and cleaning whilst commuting daily to York to participate in a variety of projects in the homes of people living in need in the centre of the city.

Although there is an adult presence provided by teaching staff, the aim is to allow students to work as far as is feasible with autonomy and independence, taking on responsibility

for their own work schedules and organisation.

For the work itself three separate working groups are created, each facilitated by the generous participation of young Old Amplefordians who are able to take on the role of overseeing adults without students feeling the need to defer, as they might to a teacher.

The core theme of the week is community. Students are thrown into some very challenging situations at times during the course of this week and have a proven track record of being able to interact with and contribute to the community, but crucially the bonds of friendship that are created amongst the students themselves during their week very quickly become the foundation stone upon which their ability to engage is built. Each day, within the cycle of prayer and work, students, Old Amplefordians and staff gather to eat, play and talk, safe and secure in the knowledge that every person will be facing his or her own challenges.

Over the years students have worked on a total of 18 projects, which have been sourced by our

friends at The Besom in York who work hard each year to enable our students to make a difference and to do so in a practical way, and also in many cases in a very personal way. It is usual for those whose homes are being worked in to be present for the whole week, and this is a particularly powerful dimension of SHACworks.

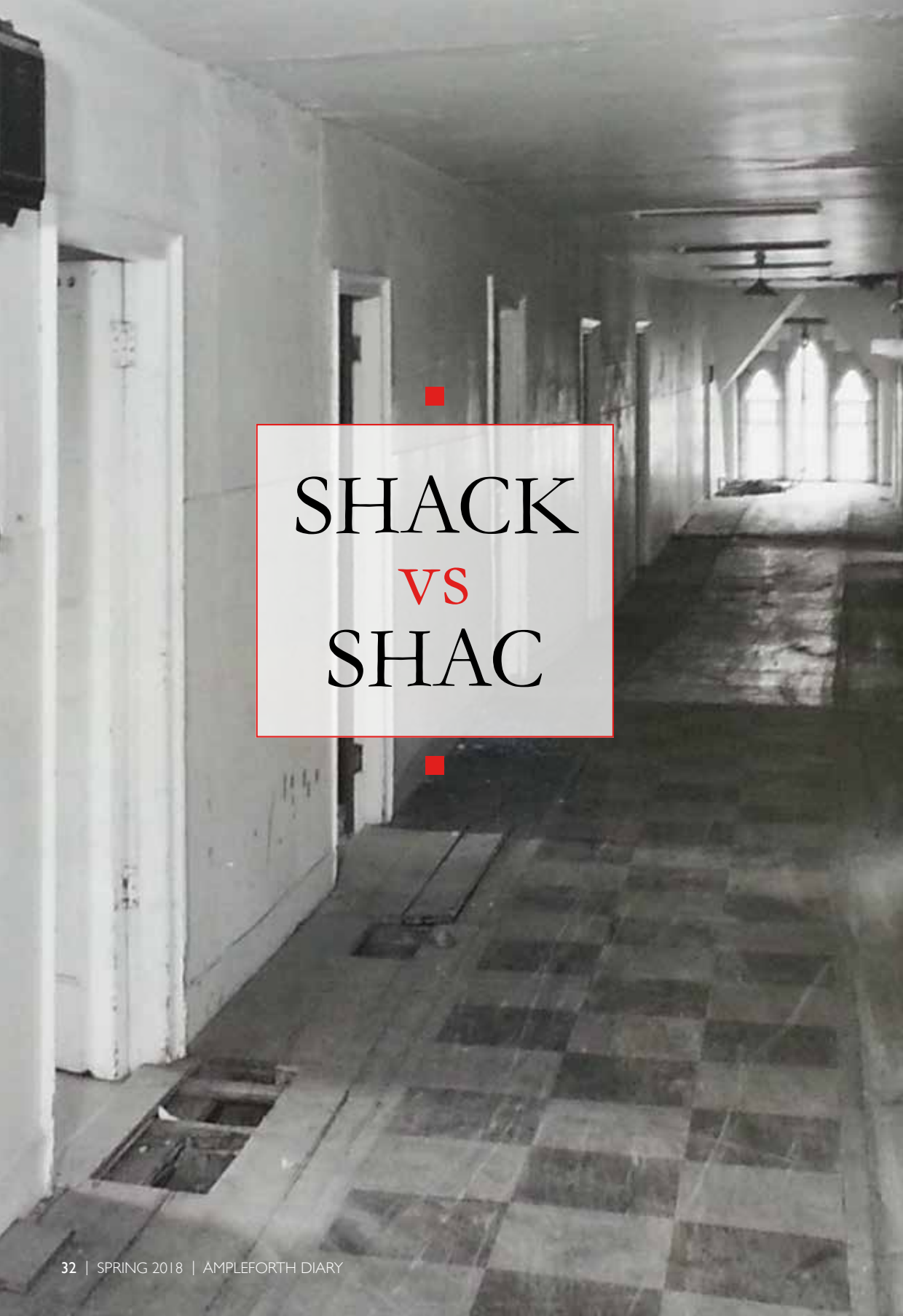
There have been many high points through the years, but a particular one springs to mind. Students had spent a week scrubbing walls and ceilings in readiness for paint in the home of a gentleman who had been disabled because of an industrial accident; when it came to the final day and the last remaining undecorated panel was ready for its facelift the gentleman asked that each student dip his or her hand into one of the many colours of paint which had been used, and decorate the entire fireplace wall with their hands so that he could remember the week that he had spent with them.

I often wonder if those handprints are still there!

Ali Rogerson

SHACworks





SHACK VS SHAC

The word SHACK, or acronym SHAC, refers to the phrase often used to recall the school at Ampleforth Abbey. It is said to refer to Senior House Ampleforth College, but this would seem to be incorrect. The correct contemporary word has become SHAC, but the correct historical origins are SHACK...

Firstly, there never was a Senior House at Ampleforth. The House system began in 1926 with four Houses: St Aidan's, St Bede's, St Cuthbert's and St Oswald's. None was a senior house.

Secondly, the origin of the word seems to be an incident in the winter of 1925/26. Tony Sutton (O40) wrote in a letter to the Secretary of the Ampleforth Society dated 18 September 2006: "The name SHACK was given to the school by Russell Morgan, who was Captain of Cricket in 1926. The story, as related by Fr Anthony Ainscough, who was in the school with Russell, is that one day in the Winter of 1925-26 he



was sitting with friends in the Old House (to become St Oswald's in 1926) in a heavy rainstorm. The roof was leaking and Morgan exclaimed: "This place is a real shack." Everyone laughed and the name caught on, so that by the time of the cricket season of 1926, Russell was able to encourage his team by saying: "Come on, don't let the old Shack down." The Ampleforth Journals of 1925 and 1926 record that he was a dashing batsman and that he inspired his team to be one of the best school fielding sides in the country. In a telephone conversation on 27th December 2014, Tony Sutton, now aged 93 and still playing golf, re-affirmed this story and origins of this colloquial name of Ampleforth as SHACK and not SHAC.

Thus for nearly 90 years the school has been known as SHACK and historically it should not be SHAC. The first issue of the Ampleforth News on 18th November 1935 (of which Tony Sutton has a copy) has

many references to SHACK, as do other issues. Mg George Hay (C49) said that in his day it was SHACK, but Raymond Twohig (C71) understood that SHAC referred to 'Senior House Ampleforth College' and he did not know of SHACK. Neither had he heard the Russell Morgan story. So perhaps the change happened somewhere between 1949 and 1971. It seems that the story of SHAC was around even in the 1950s, but its origin is unknown.

"THE CORRECT CONTEMPORARY WORD HAS BECOME SHAC, BUT THE CORRECT HISTORICAL ORIGINS ARE SHACK..."



AMPLEFORTH SOCIETY WEEKEND



SATURDAY 13TH & SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER
 Online booking via the website will be available soon
www.ampleforth.org.uk/society



My Vocation



*“Something that we have heard,
 that we have seen with our own
 eyes; that we have watched
 and touched with our hands;
 the Word, who is life.”*
 (1 John 1:1)

People have often asked me what my vocation, my call, was like, or what it's like to have a call from God. I find it very hard to answer.

The closest I get, I think, are those words of St John. It is about “something I have touched, or heard, or seen - the Word who is Life.” We have all of us come in contact with or sensed something we find very hard to express, to tie down - and it has changed us. Each one of us has, in some way, touched the hem of his garment, glimpsed him, felt the intimations of his presence - and our lives have been changed, perhaps subtly, but at the same time utterly and irrevocably. And in that encounter, despite all our weakness and doubt, like St Peter kneeling in the boat, we have been chosen, called. We now belong to him.

That is my experience, of having at a particular point in my life encountered the Word who is Life. And for me with that encounter there was no turning back. Once that encounter takes place, the path we walk changes, we look around and we no longer see the same landscape.

We can't go back the way we came - it's no longer there. There is no return - all we can do is walk forward on this new path, with this new knowledge, this new presence - not knowing where it will lead, except that it will bring us closer to him.

One thing I have discovered is that it is an ongoing call - the initial “yes” is only the beginning. Its full meaning must unfold little by little in my life and each day I must listen to his call again. It is a journey of discovery. That journey has led me to priesthood in the Archdiocese of Dublin in Ireland, something I would never have imagined when I was 15. That journey then later led me to a monastery, to Ampleforth Abbey, something I would never have imagined when I was 22. Who knows where it will lead next?

One thing I do know is that in all its frustrations and joys, its moments of great peace and its moments when I am tempted to walk away, I have always sensed that God is there and if I follow he will lead me. For me prayer is not a luxury, it is essential. If I am not open to God, if I don't let him lead me, I get lost, and I lose

the precious gift of his presence. To me other people are vital. God very often comes to us through other people, and people from all walks of life have helped me and inspired me and been an immensely important part of my journey. We are never truly alone, never really independent. We receive so much from others. We share the journey together and it is a journey that is meant to be shared.

Let us not underestimate what Christ has done for us. Let us acknowledge in profound gratitude his presence in our lives and the encounters that have changed us. That presence, that encounter, may have been gentle, intangible, inexpressible - but it will not let go. We may still be searching, but God is already there in the searching. As someone once put it: “you would not be searching if you had not already somehow found.”

Through it all I have one overriding conviction, echoing St Paul: “nothing can outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ, the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Philippians 3:8)

Fr Kevin Hayden OSB

All these events are subject to change. To find out more and keep up to date with any changes, please visit the events section on the Ampleforth Society website: www.ampleforth.org.uk/society

Or contact Philippa Jalland (M13): 01439 766884 or Philippa.Jalland@ampleforth.org.uk

If you are planning to arrange an Old Amplefordian or Ampleforth Society event in your area, please do contact us, as we would be delighted to help spread the word!

AMPLEFORTH SOCIETY EVENTS 2018

FRIDAY 18TH MAY

City Mass and Lunch
St Mary Moorfields, 4-5 Eldon Street,
London, EC2M 7LS

THURSDAY 7TH JUNE

Brompton Oratory Mass and Drinks
Brompton Road, Knightsbridge,
London SW7 2RP

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE

Ampleforth Beagles London Dinner
Victory Services Club,
63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF

THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Brompton Oratory Mass and Drinks
Brompton Road, Knightsbridge,
London SW7 2RP

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER

OA & OG Reunion for
Great War Armistice Centenary
Paris, France

THURSDAY 31ST MAY

Young Old Amplefordian London Pub Quiz
The Coopers Arms, 87 Flood Street, Chelsea,
London, SW3 5TB

THURSDAY 14TH JUNE

Ampleforth Society Music
& Media Drinks
London

FRIDAY 22ND JUNE

Summer Drinks Party at St Benet's Hall
Oxford (tbc)
St Benet's Hall, 38 St Giles', Oxford OX1 3LN

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Amplefordian Sailing Club –
Arrow Trophy Regatta
Cowes Yacht Haven

SATURDAY 13TH & SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Ampleforth Society Weekend
Ampleforth Abbey & College



AMPLEFORTH SOCIETY AND THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Many of you may be aware of forthcoming changes to the Data Protection Act and that on 25th May 2018 the new regulation (GDPR) will come into effect in the UK. This will replace the current Data Protection Act and introduce new and different requirements for all organisations in relation to how we look after and manage any personal data we may hold.

At Ampleforth we are ensuring that all the necessary systems and processes are in place to ensure that any personal details we hold (for example, names and contact details) are held securely and legitimately. If you have received a copy of the Ampleforth Diary it is because you are a member of the Ampleforth Society. In 2015 we extended membership from Old Amplefordians only, to current and past parents and friends and regular visitors to Ampleforth.

The objectives of the Ampleforth Society include “the promotion of the Catholic faith and to advance education by engaging in activities which support the Abbey and College and advance the education of the pupils.” In addition we aim to “foster relations between members and other persons associated with Ampleforth Abbey and Ampleforth College.”

Our communications with you are intended to support our efforts in meeting these objectives and hopefully provide reasonable, helpful, useful and entertaining information on activities at Ampleforth and beyond.

To help us continue to keep you informed of all things Ampleforth, now would be a good time to ensure that we hold your correct contact details. We know that occasionally some households receive several copies of the Diary, when actually copies should be directed to children who have now moved out of the family home.

If you are unsure whether we hold your correct contact details, or if you would like to know what information we hold on you on our database, please contact Sue Fisher, Director of Development & Alumni Relations, who will be happy to help.

Tel: 01439 766766

Email: Sue.Fisher@ampleforth.org.uk

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



www.ampleforth.org.uk