

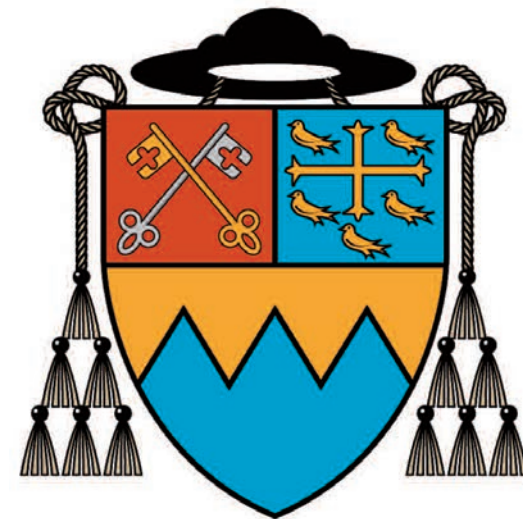
# The Ampleforth Journal



September 2016  
to  
July 2017  
Volume 121



The  
Ampleforth  
Journal



September 2016 - December 2017  
Volume 121



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## EDITORIAL

FR RICHARD FIELD OSB

EDITOR OF THE AMPLEFORTH JOURNAL



ST BENEDICT HAS BEEN CALLED the Doctor of Humility and he says that every monk should progress in humility. In Chapter Seven of his Rule for monks, St Benedict describes how our humility truly grows as we learn to accept humiliations.

We at Ampleforth have had to accept humiliation as we have heard how children in our schools and on our parishes have suffered sexual abuse from some of our brethren. It has been horrifying to listen to or read first-hand accounts during the hearings of the

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), of the lifetime damage that has been done to people at the hands of members of our monastic community. Whether it leads to humility remains to be seen but it is worth noting that in Chapter 2 of his letter to the Philippians, St Paul defines Humility in very similar terms to those he uses to define Love in Chapter 12 of his letter to the Romans: it seems clear that both mean treating others as more important than ourselves. It is this that has led us to make provision on our website to reach out to survivors of abuse suffered in our schools or parishes and ask people experienced in this field to train a few monks in how most helpfully to meet survivors of abuse.

The question for many remains whether a Benedictine community is fit to be involved in the education of young people. In the pages of this Journal there is evidence to suggest that education in the broadest sense is in fact thriving in this monastic school, increasingly driven by lay women and men, themselves imbued with the spirit of St Benedict.

Maybe the humility to which this community is being led is that which St Peter must have felt on the beach in the final chapter of John's Gospel where, in a threefold repetition of his question, (Jn 21:15-17) Jesus makes it absolutely clear to Peter that he has not at all forgotten Peter's threefold denial despite Peter's protestations that he, of all the Apostles, would never desert Jesus. And yet, Jesus's threefold instruction shows that he nevertheless still depends on Peter to be the rock ("Some rock I've been" Peter must have been feeling since the night of the Passion) and to be responsible for feeding Jesus's flock. And so we go forward, humiliated and, hopefully, humbled but thereby enabled to work with, and be guided by, the Holy Spirit promised us by Jesus.

Since the last issue of the Journal we have had two important Benedictine appointments. Abbot Christopher Jamison, former Abbot of Worth and National Director of Vocations, was elected Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation at the General Chapter in 2017. Some of the thoughts above are attributable to him. Earlier, Abbot Gregory Polan, formerly of Conception Abbey in Missouri, was elected Abbot Primate of the world Benedictine Confederation at the 2016 Congress of Abbots. In a recent letter he encourages each monastery to arrange for young adults to come and visit them and to ask them “What are you looking for most urgently in your life? What means the most to you in your present life situation? Where is God in your life? How do you see the Church today? Just listen to what they have to tell you. Don’t judge their responses, but rather listen receptively and openly.” This is an invitation we would like to extend: not just to Old Amplefordians, but also to others who may come across this Journal online, or who may hear of it from others. Abbot Polan suggests that this is as much to inform ourselves as (if not more so than) to help you discern your future. You might write to the Monastery Guestmaster [monguestmaster@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:monguestmaster@ampleforth.org.uk) or you might like to come on one of Fr Kevin’s Path of Life retreats – please see the website for more details [www.hpo.ampleforth.org.uk](http://www.hpo.ampleforth.org.uk).

In October the Community moved up to Bolton House while the Monastery building is being refurbished. This is expected to take about eighteen months. The Monastery Infirmary is being temporarily located in what was the West Wing of the Monastery, the building that was originally St Cuthbert’s House.

It has taken me some time to get to grips with the task of editing the Journal, which I was asked to take over from Fr Dominic, who rescued the Journal in 2013 and oversaw its transformation to an on-line annual (hard copies are available to members who have no Internet access and who ask for them). In future years it is hoped to publish earlier in the New Year. I would value suggestions for content of future issues. I would like to mention - and, occasionally, review - books and other productions by Old Amplefordians. Many will be glad to hear that Fr Martin Haigh’s illustrated talk on the Shroud of Turin is available once more, following a period of being out of print. It is in DVD format and is available from the Ampleforth Abbey Shop at £8.99.

Meanwhile, Fr Anselm, the Abbey Archivist, has begun a project to digitise all the back numbers of the Journal. The first phase of this operation will cover Volumes 1-17, covering the years 1895 to 1922. When this is ready to access, notice will be published on the Ampleforth website.

## THE AMPLEFORTH COMMUNITY

THE COMMUNITY AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AS FROM OCTOBER 2017

|                                      | RESPONSIBILITIES                       | PARISH/RESIDENCE<br>(other than Ampleforth) |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Rt Rev Cuthbert Madden               | <i>Abbot</i>                           |   |
| Abbot Timothy Wright (T60)           |  | <i>Ealing Abbey</i>                         |
| <i>Titular Abbot of Westminster</i>  |  |   |
| VR Fr Terence Richardson (J72)       | <i>Prior</i>                           |   |
|                                      | <i>Dean of Hospitality</i>             |   |
| Fr Christopher Gorst (O65)           | <i>Sub-Prior, Novice Master</i>        |   |
|                                      | <i>Hospitality</i>                     |   |
| VR Fr Henry Wansbrough (W53)         | <i>Teaching, Chaplain, St Oswald’s</i> |   |
|                                      | <i>Cathedral Prior of Durham</i>       |   |
| VR Fr Dominic Milroy (W50)           |  |   |
| <i>Cathedral Prior of Chester</i>    | <i>Secretary to the Confraters</i>     |   |
| VR Fr Leo Chamberlain (A58)          |  |   |
| <i>Cathedral Prior of Gloucester</i> | <i>Parish Priest</i>                   | <i>Easingwold</i>                           |
| VR Fr Mark Butlin (O49)              | <i>Alliance Inter-Monastères</i>       |   |
|                                      | <i>Cathedral Prior of Norwich</i>      |   |
| Fr Theodore Young (D40)              |  |   |
| Fr Aidan Gilman (A45)                |  |   |
| Fr Adrian Convery (O49)              |  |   |
| Fr Michael Phillips (E52)            |  |   |
| Fr Edward Corbould (E51)             |  |   |
| Fr Anselm Cramer (O54)               | <i>Archivist</i>                       |   |
| Fr Alban Crossley                    | <i>Monastery Guestmaster</i>           |   |
| Fr Francis Davidson                  |  |   |
| Fr Stephen Wright (T56)              |  | <i>Leyland</i>                              |
| Fr Gordon Beattie (D59)              | <i>Parish Priest</i>                   | <i>Parbold</i>                              |
| Fr Jonathan Cotton (H60)             | <i>Parish Priest</i>                   | <i>Leyland</i>                              |
| Fr Felix Stephens (H61)              |  |   |
| Fr Matthew Burns (W58)               | <i>Priest in Charge</i>                | <i>Gilling East</i>                         |
|                                      | <i>Hospitality</i>                     |   |
| Fr Edgar Miller (O61)                | <i>Priest in Charge</i>                | <i>Oswaldkirk</i>                           |
| Fr Richard ffield (A59)              | <i>Chaplain, St Cuthbert’s</i>         |   |
|                                      | <i>Editor, Ampleforth Journal</i>      |   |
| Fr Francis Dobson (D57)              |  |   |
| Fr Alexander McCabe                  | <i>Choirmaster, Teaching</i>           |   |
|                                      | <i>Chaplain, St Thomas’s</i>           |   |
| Fr Peter James (H69)                 |  |   |
| Fr Cyprian Smith                     |  |   |



Fr Antony Hain  
Fr Hugh Lewis-Vivas      *School Guestmaster  
Chaplain, St Hugh's  
Secretary, Ampleforth Society*

Fr Bede Leach      *Parish Priest      Ampleforth  
Hospitality*

Fr Jeremy Sierla      *Assistant Chaplain      Colwich Abbey*

Fr Bernard McNulty  
Fr James Callaghan      *Teaching  
Chaplain, St Margaret's*

Fr Paul Browne      *Leyland*

Fr Andrew McCaffrey  
Fr William Wright (A82)      *Parish Priest      Knaresborough*  
Fr Raphael Jones      *Parish Priest      Brindle*  
Fr Kentigern Hagan      *Parish Priest      Kirkbymoorside  
Abbey Sacristan  
Visitor Centre Warden*

Fr Gabriel Everitt      *Master of Studies      Ampleforth  
Librarian      St Benet's Hall*

Fr Cassian Dickie      *Assistant Priest      Parbold*  
Fr Xavier Ho      *Parish Priest      Lostock Hall*  
Fr Luke Beckett      *Abbot's Assistant*  
Fr George Corrie      *Assistant Priest      Easingwold*  
Fr Oswald McBride      *Vocations Director  
Superior      St Benet's Hall*

Fr Chad Boulton      *Head of Chaplaincy  
Chaplain, St Aidan's*

VR Fr Colin Battell      *St Benedict's,  
Bamber Bridge*

Fr Kieran Monahan      *Hospitality  
Master of Ceremonies*

Fr John Fairhurst      *Chaplain, SMA Gilling  
Head of Religious Studies, SMA Gilling*

Fr Wulstan Peterburs      *Headmaster*  
Fr Philip Rozario      *Chaplain, St Edward's & St Wilfrid's  
Assistant Novice Master  
Master of Oblates*

Fr Columba Moujing      *Monastery Infirmary  
Hospitality*

Fr Cedd Mannion      *Teaching  
Chaplain, St Dunstan's*

Br Ambrose Henley      *Teaching  
Chaplain, St John's*

Fr Kevin Hayden      *Hospitality  
Chaplain, St Bede's*

Br Alberic Jones      *Teaching*

Br Benedict Donleavy

## MONASTERY OF CHRIST THE WORD, ZIMBABWE

MONKS OF AMPLEFORTH

VR Fr Robert Igo      *Prior*  
Fr Barnabas Pham      *Novice Master and Bursar*  
Br Placid Mavura      *Guestmaster*

# FR AUGUSTINE MEASURES OSB 1927-2017

FR COLIN BATTELL OSB

*Born 8 November 1927; Clothed as a monk 19 September 1948; Solemnly Professed 20 September 1952, Ordained 20 July 1958; Died 9 February 2017*



FR AUGUSTINE SPENT MOST of his long life as a member of the Ampleforth community. He will be remembered with affection for his pastoral care and interest in people, which enabled him to relate to people of all kinds and conditions, both inside the Church and outside it. His intellect also marked him out as a scholar of some distinction.

He was born in Wembley on 8th November 1927 and he died in his 90th year. It was during the war years that he was educated at Ampleforth and after leaving school, he served in the army from 1946-48 as a radio instructor, an interest he maintained throughout his life. Even on holiday he was known to set up radio signals so that he could communicate with people all over the world. 'It's raining in Ecuador,' he told his amused brethren with whom he was on holiday.

On leaving the army, he joined Ampleforth and read Classical Mods and Greats at St Benet's Hall. This stood him in good stead for his reading of the Fathers of the Church in the languages in which they wrote.

Having taught Classics in the College, he was chosen as one of the original members of the community to go to St Louis in the States and found a community there and he remained there for five years with the Prior, Fr Columba Cary-Elwes, who had been his housemaster at Ampleforth. For various reasons, he was not entirely happy in the States and was glad to return to Ampleforth as senior classics master. It was during this time that he qualified as a radio ham. It was also while at the school that he organised weekly film shows for the boys in the School Theatre.

In 1968, he began his long service on the parishes, first at Bamber Bridge where he served until 1976 when he went to the parish Ampleforth had at that time in Cardiff. From 1982 he was at Warrington, first as parish priest at St Benedict's and then at St Mary's where he built the present clergy house beside the Church. It was also during this time that he organised weekly Scripture courses reflecting his deep love

and knowledge of the Scriptures.

In 1997 he went to St Joseph's Brindle where he remained until the Monastery opened at Bamber Bridge for clergy serving in Lostock Hall, Brindle and Leyland as well as in the local parish itself. He greatly loved being in the Monastery at Bamber Bridge and he was greatly loved by the parishioners many of whom remembered him being with them before.

While at St Benedict's he said Mass every day in the Monastery Chapel with about 20 local parishioners but his homilies reached a far wider audience. His use of the computer developed out of his original interest in amateur radio. His knowledge of computers was far greater than that of any of the brethren at St Benedict's most of whom were much younger than he was. Through his use of the computer hundreds heard his homilies every day in every continent of the world and found them helpful in their spiritual lives. Many of them remained in regular contact with him.

He was wide in his reading and valued particularly the writings of Von Balthasar and of Blessed John Henry Newman, all of whose writings he had beautifully rebound. He continued to give lectures on Scriptural topics for the surrounding parishes while at St Benedict's.

Fr Augustine was well aware of his weaknesses - he could be sentimental at times - and struggled to overcome them. His common sense made him a valued confessor and he always had a strong desire to communicate and proclaim the Gospel to all whom he met.

He returned to the Infirmary at Ampleforth in 2014 where he used Kindle to keep up with his reading of the Fathers of the Church and to say his Office.

He will be remembered as a good and caring man who dedicated his life to the faith and many will be grateful for his life of faithful service. May he indeed rest in peace and rise in glory.

# FR BONAVENTURE KNOLLYS OSB 1935-2017

ABBOT TIMOTHY WRIGHT OSB

*Born 18 July 1935; Clothed as a Monk 21 September 1962; Solemnly Professed 23 December 1966; Ordained 6 July 1969; Died 23 February 2017*



**H**IS EDUCATION AT AMPLEFORTH was followed by immediate entry into the Novitiate. At the completion of his Simple Vows (three years) he concluded he was not ready for Solemn Vows. He then spent five years teaching in Uganda, which opened up a wider view of the world and pointed him to return to Ampleforth, and join the 1962 novitiate, four of whom made final vows, three Ampleforth educated, two of whom had tried their vocation elsewhere, and returned to Ampleforth for a second attempt; the fourth was an American from St Louis Abbey. All of us were older and wiser from this experience elsewhere.

Bonaventure was inevitably the leader: he had Ampleforth novitiate experience. Discussions with him were always lively, controversial, respectful and challenging (remember it was the start of Vatican 2). ‘Discussion’ built unity in our group. Of our personal ‘stories,’ Bonaventure’s time in Uganda was particularly important, giving him a perspective we lacked. Perhaps surprisingly the four of us made it through to Solemn Profession and priesthood. Of the four of us, Bonaventure was deemed the best candidate for a university course in Theology and was sent to Fribourg in Switzerland for four years. That was an important time for his theological development and the Second Vatican Council was in progress. He learnt much from it and it was the inspiration for a monastic spirituality based on Jesus’ famous words: “when you did this to the least of my brethren you did it to me”(Mt 25:44-46). It summed up his deepest commitment. It was a truth he promoted quietly, especially by ‘action’ but also in his critical assessment of those values proclaimed by the better off. For him, they did not fulfil the words of Jesus.

During these early years he faced intractable problems. Bonaventure knew there were no easy solutions to world poverty: that did not stop him articulating challenges to those who came from a background of wealth. He recognised that the politics of many at Ampleforth were conservative, often implying a low priority for the poorest of the world with whom he had lived and worked in Uganda: his critique was based

on those four years of experience. For Bonaventure, First World Profit was always at the back of the queue of his priorities: Third World needs came first as the teaching of Jesus made abundantly clear.

Bonaventure’s gift was to speak with an eloquence that enabled him to say something devastatingly accurate in simple words. Those aware of the moral issues facing the rich saw Bonaventure as an articulate and intelligent promoter both of the needs of the poor and what could be the realistic expectations from the ‘rich.’ In that sense Bonaventure was particularly ‘wise.’ His time in parish work provided opportunities to deal directly with those ‘on the margin’ and at the same time encourage the better off to be ever more generous. But he never told parishioners what to do: he respected their decisions. He challenged without forcing.

I have often wondered whether my predecessor ever thought of sending him on our foundation in Zimbabwe. After all, he had spent four years working in that continent and was probably the member of the community best tuned to African culture. It was not to be; that was a gain for our parishes. Bonaventure had a rare gift: he was flexible and practical, a gift that was much appreciated.

On his return to Ampleforth he became the much-loved parish priest of Ampleforth. He also developed his artistic work in the Pottery Centre, where his creative and teaching skills shone. His patience made him an excellent communicator with people of different ages, temperaments and skills and his spirituality enhanced his craftsmanship, ‘doing’ rather than ‘talking.’ Trusting in the Lord, perhaps his greatest gift was to keep positive.

‘Sin’ was always kept in its proper perspective ‘a shower of rain’ soon to be replaced by a ‘bright shining sun,’ illustrating that the real issue was not the sin, but the determination to rebuild the relationship with the risen Christ

He coped with his final illness with much courage. It was particularly sad to see the Lord test him with dementia. What is certain is that his work with people will never be forgotten. The Lord took him to the full risen state when his purgatory on earth had gone on long enough. One who lives his ‘life’ as gift is fully aware of God’s intimacy and the trials it brings now, ensuring fulfilment later.



# JOHN MORRIS (D55) 1937-2016

FR FRANCIS DOBSON OSB

**J**OHN MORRIS HAD MANY STRONG LINKS with Ampleforth - as a boy in the school, as a novice, in his family, in the Rome Pasta Pot, as a regular visitor and a friend of many.

Born on 20th April 1937, John was the eldest of three sons of Sir William Morris and Mollie. The family lived in Bolton, and his father was a Judge and Recorder of Liverpool and of Manchester. After Gilling and Junior House John was in St Dunstan's House until 1955. He was hopeless at sport and Fr Oswald Vanheems let him do birdwatching instead of playing rugby. He was a regular visitor to the signal box at Gilling station, and a photograph of John as a signalman was in a lottery prize of photographs at the House Punch in 1955. Directly after leaving school he was clothed as a novice at Ampleforth in September 1955 as Br Desmond, one of five novices (only Fr Stephen Wright stayed). Although he is remembered as fitting very well to the monastic life, he stayed only about three months. After National Service with the Lancashire Fusiliers he went to the English College in Rome, as a student for the priesthood for Salford Diocese.

Returning to England in 1967, he worked in his uncle's stockbroking firm for two years before going to Manchester University to read Italian. In 1971 he returned to Rome to live most of the next 45 years in Italy. He set up his own Language School in Latina, 39 miles South of Rome. He was totally bi-lingual and lived in Latina until 2015. He was often in Rome and a regular visitor at the English College. One day at lunch, his seminarian contemporary Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster spotted him, beckoned him over and insisted that John sit next to him, a gesture he much appreciated.

From the mid-1960s until May 2010, he organised and presided over at least 56 Pasta Pots in Rome: informal suppers - or, later, luncheon parties - once or twice a year of Old Amplefordians and friends, inspired by his experience of the Manchester Hot Pot. These always followed Mass, normally at The Gesù, at the invitation of Fr Joe Barrett SJ (C30, died 2006). Besides Fr Joe, Cardinal Basil Hume (D41, died 1999) and Abbot Timothy Wright (T60) occasionally celebrated this Mass. The Grand Masters of the Order of Malta, Fra' Andrew Bertie (E47, died 2012) and Fra' Matthew Festing (C68) were regular attenders, as was Mgr Paul Gallagher (now Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Holy See's Foreign Minister). John had an amazing knack of finding anyone in Rome who had a connection with Ampleforth.

After about 2011, both the Pasta Pots and the Language School came to an end and John became ill. After two accidents in Italy he bought a house in Bolton before succumbing to cancer. About five or six weeks before he died, the current Rector of the English College, Mgr Philip Whitmore, visited John at Boarbank nursing home - this was a token of the esteem with which John was regarded by the English College. He died peacefully on 16th December 2016.

John was a person of much faith and friendship. He would arrive at the English College or the monastery at Ampleforth or a restaurant in the mountains of Italy, and everyone there would be his friend, receiving his welcome. He regularly visited Ampleforth perhaps twice a year, often for the Easter retreat.

## FR BASIL POSTLETHWAITE 1950-2017



Fr Basil Postlethwaite will be remembered by many as Br Basil, who came from our Parish of St Alban's in Warrington to join the Monastery in 1968, until 1981 when, under the guidance of Fr Mark Butlin (O49) he left to work in the Parish of St Ninian's under the Parish Priest Fr Jock Dalrymple (O46, died 1985) and to prepare for his ordination in 1983 to the priesthood when he was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Edinburgh.

He had an adventurous life and it was not unfitting that it was with some parishioners on the *Camino*

on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, which he had done several times, that he died suddenly.

Besides teaching economics, having read History and Economics at St Benet's, he helped with the Scouts and led many to a lasting love of canoeing and mountaineering. Some remember endless games of bridge with him in a tent waiting for the rain to stop or in the back of the Land-Rover on the way to Scotland or the Lakes.

Following ten years working with base communities in Salvador, he transferred from Edinburgh to Clifton Diocese where he served as Chaplain, first at St Mary's, Shaftesbury and then St Edward's, Cheltenham. In 2013 he did the *Camino*. He planned to start on the Feast of the Assumption and left Le Puy en Velay on 15th August. He reached Santiago in early December. Subsequently he returned to the *Camino* on many occasions, often taking parties from his parish. Following this, he was appointed as Parish Priest of English Martyrs at Chard in Somerset. Many in the parish spoke of the positive change in their spirituality that he brought about by his example and his preaching, though he remarked once; "actually, I'm really preaching to myself."

It was with some of these parishioners that he was walking from Barcelos in Portugal to Santiago de Compostela and, on the fourth day, 16th September 2017, collapsed and died one evening in his hotel room. One Old Amplefordian wrote of him: "he was undoubtedly the coolest monk I ever met" and another wrote of his distinctive and infectious laugh, as he said "Listen, you'll love this" which will continue to resonate for years to come.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH BARTHOLOMEW A Disciple's Experience of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord

BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD

*The Community Retreat this year was given by Bishop John Arnold of Salford. One of his talks consisted of an imaginary conversation with the Apostle Bartholomew and he has allowed us to reproduce it here.*

I have always assumed a great deal about the disciples and their experience of travelling with Jesus. I have not considered what their personal perceptions and understanding might have been of their experiences. In recent years I have found it very thought-provoking to try and stand among them and to consider what their reactions might have been. So now I am inviting one of the disciples, let us say it will be Bartholomew, to share his own experience of Holy Week and the Resurrection. We meet him first on the evening of Palm Sunday.

Bartholomew: "What a great day! We have finally arrived in Jerusalem. Jesus has been telling us for a long time that we would be coming here but now we are actually in the holy city. And the day has been extraordinary. Even before we got to the city gate there were big crowds of people hailing Jesus as the Messiah. He was riding on a donkey and they were throwing their cloaks on the ground in front of him. They were waving palm branches and it was a great celebration. I am sure that it can only be a matter of days before Jesus really is recognised as the Messiah. We have not been to the Temple yet but I think it will only need one of Jesus' miracles there for even the most sceptical of the Pharisees and High Priests to recognise who he is. And we are going to be there, his close companions, and we will share in his rewards for all he has done. I am so pleased for him. It has always been a privilege to witness Jesus' miracles and to hear his teaching, but a bit frustrating that we have been in the countryside and small towns. But here he will make a big impact. These days are going to be a triumph for him."

Let's leave Bartholomew for a couple of days and return to speak with him on Wednesday evening.

Bartholomew: "Well these have been strange days and, if anything, a bit disappointing. We have been going to the Temple each day and there have been some big crowds but Jesus has not been trying to win their approval. Far from it. He has been getting into arguments. He even started overturning the tables of the money changers and saying that they were making the temple into a den of thieves. I thought there was going to be a fight or that the Temple police might intervene. And he has

been challenging the crowds, so much so that some people have drifted away because they have not liked what they have heard. And he has not performed any miracles. That would change everything, I am sure it would. The Pharisees and Sadducees have been as confrontational as always. They seem to be really afraid of Jesus' influence and they keep trying to trip him up with their questions. He always has good answers but they will still not accept him.

“But I am confident that Jesus can win everyone's approval. Tomorrow Jesus wants to celebrate the Passover meal with just us disciples. It will be a lovely occasion. The most important meal of the year and Jesus wants to spend it with us. We have found a spacious room for the meal and our host has a good reputation for hospitality and fine food. I am looking forward to it.

“I am a bit worried about Judas. He has been very quiet since we arrived in Jerusalem and has disappeared a couple of times. I wonder what is wrong. Perhaps a family worry, or maybe he is just worn out after all the travel. We have been on the road for weeks without a proper break. Anyway, I have decided that tomorrow I will have a word with him and find out what is bothering him.

“For now, I am confident that Jesus is on track. I really do think that a spectacular miracle, like the multiplication of the loaves and fish, or a cure, would have everyone on board. And maybe the Feast of Passover is just the right time.”

We return to Bartholomew at the end of Thursday.

Bartholomew: “We have just finished supper and it has been a really good evening. The Passover meal in Jerusalem; who would have thought that I would ever have done that? The meal was great and the host very welcoming. But it has been a strange time, too. The first thing that Jesus did when we gathered was to wash our feet. Why? He has often spoken about loving and serving others but this seemed very odd. When he is proclaimed the Messiah he will have plenty of people to look after him and we, as his close companions, will surely have people around us to look after our needs. But he was determined to have his way. Personally, I thought it was a bit unnecessary.

“There was another very strange moment in the meal when Jesus blessed some of the bread and a cup of wine and told us to share it and do the same in remembrance of him. Why would he say that? He is about to be proclaimed Messiah. He is young and healthy and there is no need to think of doing anything “in remembrance” of him. All I could think of was the possibility that he will be sending us out of Jerusalem to speak about him and to teach, and this would be a way of remembering our friendship while we are away.

“I was a bit too far down the table to hear what was said but I saw Peter remonstrating with Jesus. Peter can get wound up very easily. But it could have been about anything and it seemed to be a private conversation so I did not ask.

“The only real worry this evening was the fact that Judas suddenly got up and left. I am annoyed with myself because I did not get to speak to him today. He is obviously unhappy with something. So I am determined, first thing tomorrow, that I will speak with him and get to the bottom of all this. In a small group like ours we have got to be looking after one another - particularly while we are so far from family and friends at home.

“But now it is getting late. We are going with Jesus to the garden of Gethsemane for some prayers as usual. I must admit that, after a long day and a good meal with some wine, I am really tired and looking forward to my bed!”

Just 24 hours later, we meet with Bartholomew again:

Bartholomew: “I am sorry. My hands are still shaking. I do not know what is worse. I am frightened, confused and feel shocked and sad. It's all over. Jesus is dead. We saw him on that cross and now he is in a tomb. I cannot believe it. Everything is just finished. All that we thought would happen cannot happen now. He is dead. “The events of the last 24 hours have just been too awful. We left the place where we had supper and got to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked us to pray, but I was so tired that I dozed off very quickly. I was not sure how long I was asleep when suddenly I was woken up by shouts and I saw Judas with some soldiers. My immediate thought was that Judas had done something wrong and the soldiers had arrested him. Recognising Judas to be a follower of Jesus I thought that they might have come to try to make Jesus an accomplice in some way and arrest him. But it quickly became clear that Judas was leading the soldiers to Jesus. I panicked and ran away. All of us disciples ran. We stayed at a safe distance and watched and then followed the soldiers back into the city.

“I cannot believe what has gone on through last night. I am a Jew and I have always been taught that the Jews have a great respect for the law and for justice. The Romans claim that they have the best legal system in the world. But last night I saw two trials go badly wrong. The Roman governor allowed himself to be dictated to by a mob and he just sent Jesus to the High Priests. There was no proper trial at all. Jesus was condemned to death within minutes. He was flogged mercilessly and then made to carry a heavy cross. It proved too much for him after the beatings and someone had to help him get the cross to Calvary. The death was horrible. I was sick.



“But what does all this mean? Were we all wrong? Was Jesus the Messiah after all? If he was then surely he could not have died. Have I made a mistake? But what about all the miracles and the teaching and the goodness of the man? Was he lying to us? I cannot sleep; I cannot begin to sort out the confusion of feelings. What are we to do? The rest of the disciples are barely speaking to one another. No-one wants to speak to Peter, as we heard him deny even knowing Jesus. I was going to tell him what I thought of his cowardice but then I stopped and asked myself if I might have done the same thing as I was so afraid. What am I going to do now?”

Sunday morning....

Bartholomew: “I cannot sleep and cannot even eat. Yesterday was terrible. We were together in a room but we hardly spoke to one another. No-one is speaking to Peter. James and John have made a few comments about being better disciples than the rest of us. We have also heard the news that Judas committed suicide. It is just another blow. We had been good friends and I should have done something to help him, even to talk to him about what might have been going wrong. I had promised myself I would talk to him but I didn’t. But now we have to live with the fact that one of our own group of friends has taken his own life. And this morning the news is getting worse. Some of the women in the group went to the tomb to embalm the body but they said that the body had gone. We haven’t even a body to grieve over. Who would steal the body? Where is he now? And what is worse is that the authorities are saying that we stole the body. That is serious crime. We will be hunted down and we cannot even go back home and just try to get on with our lives. We are presumed to be criminals.

“I was all for just going home yesterday but it was the Sabbath and everything was shut down. Now I just want to run. I am confused about what these last three years have been about. Who was Jesus? Was it all a lie? How could such a good man be put to death without a proper trial? How could people act in that way? Nothing makes sense.”

Fortunately, Bartholomew did not run and we were able to meet again that evening. Bartholomew: “Well I am still confused, very confused, but now I can smile again. I am lost for words...Jesus came to the room this evening. He was just suddenly there in the doorway with a simple greeting “Peace be with you.” James screamed and all of us were in shock but it really was him: his voice, his smile, his words. Peter stayed in the background and hardly looked up at all. Did someone tell Jesus that Peter denied him? Jesus spent some time explaining that he had told us all about what would happen but we had not been listening. He even reproached us for our “obstinacy and incredulity” and I suppose we deserve that. I don’t care what he might say about us...he’s alive and back with us and there must be some sense to be

made of this. I promise that I will be listening to every word he says from now on. I will concentrate! You should have seen us when Jesus had gone. We didn’t know whether to laugh or cry, but it was a wonderful feeling of relief. I do not know what Jesus has in mind. Will we stay in Jerusalem? Will he go and show himself to others? What will he want us to do? I cannot wait to find out. We seem to be back on track.”

Our last meeting with Bartholomew comes some six weeks later:

Bartholomew: “Well, I am confused again but at least not depressed. We have had a great six weeks with Jesus. He has taught us about his ministry and we have understood a lot more about all he had been saying to us on our journey with him. Not everything is clear but I have been learning the parables and finding much more meaning in them and finding that some of them really do apply to me personally. But today, Jesus shocked us by simply announcing that he was returning to the Father. We need him with us but he is going away. He commissioned us “to go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news and baptise.” Seriously? That really seems to be a crazy command. We are, for the most part, simple fishermen. We speak Aramaic and do not even know more than a few words of Greek and Latin, the languages of the Roman Empire. We have never travelled further than Judaea and Galilee, and a few days in Samaria. The whole world? Impossible. But Jesus did say that he would send us an advocate who, he said, will remind us of all that he said to us and lead us in all truth. We have not met this advocate yet, but will be watching out for him.

“So we wait for the next chapter. We feel entirely unequipped for what we are told we must do. I have come to realise that we are part of a much bigger plan than we can understand and even though we may be rather disappointing in playing our part, the plan is going ahead and it is God’s plan and not ours. I am going to have to learn to trust him, day by day, and hope that this advocate will be as good a teacher and guide as Jesus.

“The lesson for us is that God’s Plan is far greater than we could ever know. By his courtesy, we have our part to play and we will sometimes get it wrong but there is always forgiveness and mercy and the plan will go on and come to completion.”



## THE COMMUNITY OF ST COLUMBA

### Manquehue at Ampleforth 2016 and 2017

*Cristóbal Valdés has led the Community of St Columba for their two years at Ampleforth and here gives an account of what they have been doing.*

**T**HE COMMUNITY OF ST COLUMBA is a group of Manquehue laymen who have been living and working at Ampleforth during 2016 and 2017.

#### The Manquehue Apostolic Movement, Ampleforth and the English Benedictine Congregation

The Manquehue Apostolic Movement is one of the many new communities that have sprung up in the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council. It began in Chile in the 1970's. The Movement first started in Santiago, at the foot of a mountain called Manquehue - 'the place of the condor' in the indigenous language - from which it took its name.

Manquehue is a community of lay people inspired by the experience of Christian friendship and Lectio Divina, the prayerful reading of Holy Scripture. We follow the Rule of St Benedict, which we have received from Ampleforth as a guide and inspiration for our community. About 1,500 people belong to Manquehue in Chile. We are all laymen and women of different ages and social backgrounds, who take part in the life of the Movement with varying degrees of commitment.

At the heart of Manquehue lies a core group of 42 laymen and women who have made a life-commitment to live, pray and work together in community. The members of this core-group are called oblates. About half of them are coenobites and live together with other oblates, either men or women. The other half are married and live with their families. All of us work together in the different Manquehue projects. On week days, we celebrate Lauds, Midday Prayer, Vespers and Office of Readings together, dedicate time to Lectio Divina and have lunch in silence with reading. Compline is said in our homes.

Our main work is in education. In Santiago, we run three schools for 4,500 pupils, as well as 150 weekly Lectio Divina groups and a hostel for homeless women. We also have a community and retreat centre in Patagonia, in the south of Chile.

The link with Ampleforth started when Manquehue's founder, José Manuel Eguiguren, a married layman, started visiting Ampleforth every year in 1981. He

first came to Ampleforth to learn about Benedictine education but, in the Rule of St Benedict and in the monastic community, he found inspiration not only for his new school, but for the whole lay community he was starting in Chile. Fr Dominic Milroy, then the Headmaster, was the first monk to welcome José Manuel. Friendship between them was instant and long lasting. Abbot Patrick Barry also took a personal interest and when he retired he dedicated long years to write 'A Cloister in the World.' In this book, he tells the history of Manquehue and reflects on its implications. Abbot Timothy Wright, since being Housemaster in St John's up to the present day, has also been a great influence in this improbable spiritual friendship between a monastery in North Yorkshire and a Latin American Movement. Since 1981, over 100 Ampleforth old boys and girls have been out to Chile in their gap year; around 20 monks from Ampleforth have visited, some several times, and scores of Manquehue members have been to Ampleforth helping out on retreats and running Lectio Divina groups for students.

This relationship with Ampleforth then expanded into other EBC houses. In 2009 the General Chapter of the EBC and the Manquehue Apostolic Movement established a reciprocal commitment of spiritual communion and juridical consociation, committing each other to mutual support through collaboration, hospitality and prayer. The female community of St Scholastica, established at Downside in 2015, and the male community of St Columba, at Ampleforth during 2016 and 2017, form part of this history of friendship between Manquehue, Ampleforth and the EBC.

### The Community of St Columba, aims, life and work

Ampleforth and Manquehue expressed their vision and aims for the Community of St Columba in a shared statement. St Columba was 'to be a Manquehue style community while supporting and enhancing the Benedictine charism of Ampleforth.' This vision unfolded in five aims, regarding community life and formation, our work in the College, cultivating friendship with the monastery, supporting the spiritual journey of young Old Boys and Girls from various EBC schools and developing the relationship with the different EBC houses.

St Columba has had four permanent members during these two years, all of us coenobite oblates. Eight young old boys from our schools in Chile have joined us at different stages, usually for periods of six months. Our home has been St Chad's Lodge, across the road from St Thomas's and overlooking the apple orchard. We have followed a regular timetable allowing substantial time for Lectio Divina, liturgy, personal prayer, formation and community life, as well as for our work in the College. The experience has been deeply enriching. For us oblates, it has been a time of intense community life and friendship that has renewed our vocation in

Manquehue. Similarly, for the young men who have spent time with us, it has been a most valuable period of formation, prayer and mission. Half terms and holidays have taken us around the UK, putting us in contact with the saints of this country. Canterbury, Walsingham, Westminster, Tyburn, Norwich, Durham, Lindisfarne, Lastingham, Ripon, Jarrow, Rievaulx, Hexham and, of course, Iona, have been some of the holy places to which we have made pilgrimages.

Friendship with the monks has widened and deepened through personal relationships, the daily celebration of Mass and the Offices in the monastic choir, and many meals shared both at the monastery and at St Chad's. Abbot Patrick was delighted with our presence at Ampleforth and wanted to know everything about our work with the young. Being with him for his Passover was an immense privilege. Fr Chad has been our line manager in the College, a spiritual friend and a faithful companion in every possible way. Fr Luke, as our liaison with the monastic community, has provided valuable advice and constant support. He also invited us to Lourdes, a strong spiritual occasion that gave us an insight into the wider Ampleforth family. Every week we had a different monk to teach us about the most varied and edifying topics.

Easter revealed Ampleforth to us as a Holy Place for the wider Church. Christmas showed us the heart of Ampleforth as a group of men that, only then, are left all by themselves in the valley. We have deeply missed Abbot Cuthbert and have fervently joined the community in their prayers for him. We have been welcomed into the monastic choir and refectory, even during the demanding time of the move to Bolton House.

St Scholastica and St Columba have accompanied many young Old Boys and Girls from different EBC schools through support for their Lectio groups, retreats and hospitality. Most of these young people have spent their gap year with Manquehue in Chile and have continued cultivating their experience of Lectio Divina, personal prayer and spiritual friendship back in the UK. Others have joined them. We are now helping them find ways for further developing this weave of prayer, friendship and mission.

During these two years we have visited almost every house of the EBC in England. We have gathered students, teachers and monks from Ampleforth, Downside and Worth in the EBC Lectio Leaders Retreats, together with St Scholastica. We had the challenging privilege of giving a retreat on Lectio Divina to the monastic community at Belmont Abbey. All these have been inspiring experiences that gradually put flesh to the consociation between Manquehue and the EBC.



## A spiritual reflection on our work in the College

Our main work has been to support Lectio Divina groups for the students at Ampleforth College. We have received an enthusiastic response from them. Half of the students in the school are involved in these groups and about 60 of them are leading groups of younger students. Lectio Divina is a particular way of reading the Bible by which we come into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and experience his love and his friendship. This is a powerful experience that brings light, health, liberation and purpose to the lives of the ones who have it, as we read in the Gospels about the people that met Him then. It also brings about a sense of belonging and a new kind of friendship among those who share this experience. This is what has been happening to many students at Ampleforth, to varying degrees.

Handing over our work, as we prepare to leave Ampleforth at the end of 2017, has required practical preparations: a description of the structure we have used for the Lectio groups, a handbook on how to start a new group, a guide for Lectio Group Leaders, and a two-year programme for the Emmaus Community that gathers Sixth Formers for Lectio Divina. But structures, programmes, methods and organisation remain empty without the living reality of the life of the Spirit, that is a spiritual fire, a living water, the experience of the love of God made manifest to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. In our case, the elements underpinning this spiritual reality have been Lectio Divina, the particular kind of relationships we call 'Tutoría', and our community life and work. A description of how we have tried to live out these three elements may help inspire an Ampleforth version of them for the future.

### Lectio Divina

To teach Lectio Divina we need to have a fresh experience of it ourselves. Our own daily Lectio Divina, done together and animated by mutual encouragement, has been essential to our community life and work in the school. Through it we come back often to the presence of the Lord and experience afresh the gift of his love, his forgiveness, his teaching and his healing. Lectio Divina is an inner Pentecost constantly renewed. Teaching Lectio Divina is sharing the Good News we have recently found for ourselves.

It is important to keep to a precise understanding of Lectio Divina and be aware of ways in which one drifts from it. We need to remind ourselves that Lectio presents the message that is hidden from the learned and the clever and is revealed to little children. It is not primarily, therefore, about explanations of human wisdom or clever argumentation. It is a simple but powerful experience, not confirmed by exterior evidence but by the inner voice that is stronger than human persuasion.

We also need to keep in mind that good behaviour and participation in the life of the Church are not a requirement for Lectio. Lectio comes before these. Lectio presents the message that tax collectors and sinners flocked to hear. The conversion it calls us to is something that grows from within. In time, it bears fruit of good works, community and life in the Church that then ripens to a fulfilment beyond the capacity of human effort or determination. To teach Lectio Divina is to bring someone into the presence of the Lord, like the friends of the paralytic man did, believing that life springs from contact with Him.

### Tutoría

Tutoría is a particular kind of relationship through which evangelisation can come about. Starting from small beginnings and simple actions, spending time, listening openly, with patience, the young are 'rescued from anonymity' and relationships with them grow towards spiritual companionship and spiritual friendship. Tutoría is meeting people where they are and walking with them in the direction they are going, like Jesus on the way to Emmaus or Philip by the chariot of the Ethiopian.

We have tried to walk with the students in the school by being with them in meals, sports, games, music performances, plays, classes, assemblies, year group retreats, house retreats, St Benedict's Day activities, the sponsored Big Walk, Friendship Holidays, SHAC Works, SHAC Rock Concert, deli-nights, House Masses and House Punches; getting to know about their studies, families and interests of all sorts, reading what they read, watching what they watch, listening to their music; allowing time and conversation both before and after Lectio, sharing tea and food, keeping the Upper Chaplaincy open and welcoming. Personal conversations about life, vocation, love and grief, increasingly happen as we are more and more naturally present in their daily lives. It is in the context of these relationships that we have been able to present the Word of God to them.

We have also taught Tutoría to the older students who lead Lectio groups. They have to learn how to cope with laughter, banter, improper language or manners, slackness, distraction and disruption. Their patience is often put to the test. They need support and advice to deal with these in a way that doesn't hinder a Tutoría kind of relationship.

The weekly preparation time is often primarily about encouraging them and renewing their sense of mission. Many have become outstanding 'tutores' and enjoy great respect from their boys and girls. It is also true at Ampleforth that 'the best way to pass on the Gospel to young people is through other young people.'

## Community life and work

Community life is the oil that keeps our lamps burning and our mission going. It keeps us going when our work stops making sense, when we are tired and when we fail. Community keeps fresh our experience of the Lord in Lectio Divina, in the Eucharist and in the liturgy. It also helps to prevent things like giving oneself the credit, possessiveness, territory, vanity, the pursuit of esteem and recognition, and the sense of isolation and frustration that comes with all these.

Our home in St Chad's Lodge has been an ideal space to build our community. Being away from our country offers a natural cloister. Our timetable protects mornings for the Divine Office, Mass, Lectio Divina, shared breakfast, domestic work and formation. On Fridays, our day-off, we go out together. Every Saturday evening, we have a community meal and recreation. The constant company of young Manquehue members demands from us an exceptional diligence towards community. With each new group, we have dedicated many hours to finding concrete practices to live out Chapter 72 of Benedict's Rule in our daily life. Fraternal correction and spiritual companionship are additional and significant inputs. Friendship with the monastic community, formation from monks and the monastic context in which we live have also contributed substantially.

Any idealisation of our community life would, of course, be false. We get on each other nerves, we contend, we compare, we doubt, we argue, we disagree, we fight. Still, when any of us feels lonely, there are many things that tell him (even if painfully) that he is not alone.

## Final reflections

We are deeply thankful to God and to Ampleforth, very especially to the monastic community, for these two years. We have been welcomed, appreciated and very respectfully looked after. We have received the precious gift of friendship with many. We have grown in our vocation, in prayer and spiritual understanding. We would like to offer the following final reflections out of gratitude and friendship.

It is very clear to us that the monastic community is the heart of Ampleforth. Though the various difficulties it is facing at this time could spread a pessimistic view of its future, what we see is a substantial group of very spiritual and able men, both young and old, that has amazing potential. If we were told, for example, that a group just like them were going to begin a foundation somewhere else, everybody could be very sensibly sure of its wonderful possibilities. We think that the challenges of the move to Bolton House, even though only for 18 months, may be a stepping stone towards making this new foundation in the same old valley.

We think our work has created a space that can be important for the school. Our departure is an opportunity for the development of this space with a local character. Developing an Ampleforth version of the three spiritual elements described above would be a challenge shared by both the school and the monastic community. But, on the other hand, further cultivation of relationships between the monks and the pupils would be enormously beneficial for both.

The Lord has guided Ampleforth and Manquehue to cultivate a very unlikely and abundantly fruitful spiritual friendship for over 35 years now. Since 2004 this relationship has grown a lot from the groups of Chilean young people working in the College during January and February. During 2016 and 2017, the presence of St Columba has taken this friendship a step further. In the times ahead, we all need to be very attentive and open to the signs that will point us in the direction that God would like us to travel in the future as spiritual friends.

# AMPLEFORTH AND THE RYEDALE FESTIVAL

ROBIN ANDREWS

*Robin Andrews (O61) is a graduate of Edinburgh University having studied Civil Engineering and Economics. His career in the City gave him particular exposure to the mining and oil sectors - areas which still interest him today. In recent years he has been an occasional contributor to the Spectator Business Section. He was Chairman of the Ryedale Festival for seven years and remains a Vice President.*

THE RYEDALE FESTIVAL AND AMPLEFORTH are closely connected not least because its origins are in a small music festival created in Helmsley in 1981 by some of the music staff at Ampleforth College including Simon Wright, Alex and Peter White, as well as June Emerson. After four exciting years and not a little musical ‘politics,’ the Ryedale District Council were persuaded that small, regular funding might give dividends by creating an event that could both attract tourism to the area and offer an opportunity for local people to hear and participate in classical music of the highest quality. The Helmsley Festival changed its name to The Ryedale Festival and Dr John Warrack (co-editor of the Oxford Book of Opera and husband of former English teacher at Ampleforth, Lucy Beckett) became its President, a post he continues to fill with distinction to this day.

The last 20 years or so have seen the Ryedale Festival grow in both its range and in the number of events it holds each year - now more than 60 - including its Spring Festival, its London event, the Summer Festival and the Opera tour. From being largely Helmsley based, events are now held regularly in all the grand houses of the area including Castle Howard, Sledmere and Duncombe Park, as well as churches and theatres from Scarborough to York. In 2012 the Ryedale District Council (and indeed the Arts Council) withdrew funding and so the Festival has had to learn to ‘fly solo.’

In the last 37 years there have been only four Artistic Directors and five Chairmen and all have made significant contributions to the progress of an institution that now commands both international and national attention. However, the Ampleforth connection remains - with the Abbey Church being a wonderful venue where in recent years Tallis Scholars, Tenebrae, Orchestra of Opera North, and many others have performed. The theatre has been used for at least eight years as the venue for the annual new opera production - a massive task that has only been made possible by a combination of the President’s generosity in presenting a newly translated opera each year, the Artistic Director recruiting highly promising young singers at the start of their careers and being able to share the production costs with other festivals. The

week before the Festival, the theatre is filled with rehearsing singers and hyperactive directors, costume makers and musicians. One occasion remains etched on this writer’s memory when Fr Alexander McCabe had let it be known that he knew the music of Eugene Onegin - and in particular the famous aria of Prince Gremin. It so happened that there was a dress rehearsal that afternoon and the baritone taking Gremin’s role was unavoidably absent. Fr Alexander stepped into the breach and at the end of his solo was applauded by all the cast - a case of what might have been!



and unambiguous. He, his wife and daughter were guests at a lunch given by the Abbot and later attended Vespers.

It is a matter of regret that the Ryedale Festival occurs in the last fortnight of July when all the staff and many of the monks are on holiday or, indeed, at Lourdes. So perhaps it may surprise several at Ampleforth (and many outside Ampleforth) to know how important it has been to the growth and prosperity of a Festival that is now in its 38th year and is known and respected well beyond North Yorkshire.





## MONASTIC FORMATORS' PROGRAMME

FR MARK BUTLIN OSB (O49) AND BR PLACID MAVURA OSB

*Since moving into Bolton House we have been listening at supper each day to the reading of *New Wine in New Wineskins*, a document from the Congregation about Formation in Religious Congregations. Two of our own monks, Fr Columba Moujing of Ampleforth and Br Placid Mavura of Christ the Word in Zimbabwe, this year took part in the International Monastic Formators' Programme; it seemed a good opportunity to hear more about it. Fr Mark Butlin has been a director of the Programme since its inception.*

**I**N 1996, PRIOR EMANUELE BARGELLINI, the then General of the Camaldolese, offered a challenge at the Abbots' Congress concerning the programme of monastic studies offered by Sant' Anselmo, the International Benedictine University in Rome. The academic approach of the Monastic Institute at that time, he said, failed to meet the needs of many who came for help as formators, faced with the task of initiating candidates to the living monastic tradition. In his view, a wisdom and experience based course was essential in order to provide serious and practical training for formators. The importance of Prior Emanuele's words was underlined by Dom Bernardo Olivera, the retired Abbot General of the Trappists, when he said "formation is the future of monastic life."

As a result of this challenge, Abbot Primate Marcel Rooney set up a working party to research the possibility and practicality of establishing a monastic formators' programme. The fruit of some four years of study and preparation was the present Monastic Formators' Programme which has run 12 three month sessions in English since 2002. In that time there have been some 350 participants from more than 40 countries.

Fr Brendan Thomas of Belmont Abbey (England) and I, Fr Mark Butlin of Ampleforth Abbey, have directed the Programme from the outset, supported by a faculty of about 16 highly qualified lecturers who have been able to draw on a rich personal experience of the monastic and Benedictine tradition. It has become very clear to us that it is of key importance to have teachers who can share not just solid academic knowledge, but also the lived reality of monastic life.

The multi-cultural nature of the Programme allied with the diverse backgrounds of the participants presents a particular challenge as well as giving richness. Furthermore, they come from different traditions and expressions of monastic living of both men and women belonging to the worldwide Benedictine and Cistercian family. To benefit from this diversity necessitates a sensitive and creative approach



at all levels, which includes adaptation to a wide range of intellectual ability. One of the most successful aspects of the Programme has been its capacity to bring about a genuine experience of Christian community among such a diversity of people in a matter of three months. The openness and depth of personal sharing has been a particularly significant feature of this achievement.

What we, as the organisers, have discovered over the period of the last 14 years is reflected in the main features of the Programme we offer. We have learnt that shared experience based on community life and common prayer provides the key foundation for discovering the real value and richness of our monastic tradition. Experience, insight, and expertise are shared and deepened by means of a process that starts with lectures, is followed by personal study and reflection, and leads into group discussion. Each participant is invited to make a personal journey, which can lead to a deepened understanding of their vocations. Unlike the time of their first novitiate and initial training, they are now able to build on what they have learnt from their own actual experience over the years of living as monks and nuns. Amongst the areas covered in the course, human development and spiritual accompaniment have proved to be of particular interest and value.

We have observed that many of those who have attended the Programme have come with a feeling that their own monastic formation was somewhat patchy and at times even weak, thus failing to equip them for the task of formation. This has resulted in a serious lack of confidence and hesitancy in taking on this key ministry in their community. The Programme has helped to reignite their initial enthusiasm for their monastic vocation through discovering a new depth of meaning and value in monastic life. Frequently, participants have described the Programme as a second novitiate or as a time of depth conversion in their lives, leading them to take responsibility for their monastic vocation in a new way. This, in turn, has created a conviction and enthusiasm to communicate what they have personally discovered.

Monastic formation seems at times to have fallen short of its aim to communicate a clear integrated vision of our life and its purpose. This is reflected in a tendency to concentrate on teaching a way of life based on practices and observances and on communicating theoretical rather than experiential knowledge about a series of topics such as obedience, silence, the liturgy and psalms, community life, and monastic history. It would appear that there has been a failure to impart a sufficiently theological understanding of monastic life rooted in the reality of everyday living. Hence we have sought to build up an overall view of monastic life as a faith journey for Disciples of Christ, shared in a communion of life. Once again to quote Dom Bernardo Olivera, who contributed to the Programme on several occasions, the starting point for all monks and nuns must be the call of the Gospel and a process of re-evangelization in depth. Our life has to be a response to Jesus's first call: "Be

converted and believe the Good News" (Mk I.14), which Benedict interprets as a "processu fidei et conversationis"- a process of faith and on-going conversion - for which we enter the School of the Lord's service (Prologue 49,46). The structure and content of the Monastic Formators' Programme is geared to presenting and nurturing this integrated vision of our monastic journey.

The seven weeks spent in Rome and the six in Assisi, and in particular the pilgrimages and excursions to Christian and monastic sites, provide the opportunity for giving a new perspective to the participants' faith and for 'earthing' Benedict, thus bringing the whole monastic tradition to life. Alongside living and studying together for three months, their sharing of such concrete experiences is of immense value in fleshing out their faith.

Br Placid Mavura, from Monastery of Christ the Word, Zimbabwe attended the Programme and he writes: "It was a time of joy to be able to witness how Benedictine life is being lived in different ways around the world; I hope Benedict is smiling from heaven seeing how he has inspired so many people to follow Jesus Christ.

"But why a monastic formation programme? It is because we are called to walk the walk before one can lead others to do the same. This Programme is for the transformation of all those who attend and it has to work in each one of us before bringing it to others. This came out often in the classes we had during the three months. It was quite busy but manageable, because we did not have classes everyday but we had time to visit different historical places around Rome and Assisi.

"My experience of this Programme has opened my eyes and ears to the history of monastic life and how it is lived in our days. There is so much that has changed and still will change in our time. These changes will sometimes frighten us. For example: the technology we have nowadays and the lack of vocations but the most important question is how are we going to respond to these forces threatening us every day? This will bring monasteries together to ask themselves the way forward, because we cannot pretend that we are not threatened by these forces. Fr Michael Casey and other contributors to this monastic programme have raised these questions and there is no easy answer to them. The course will help us look for ways in which we are going to help those who are coming to us to embrace the monastic life. Indeed it is a challenge to all monastic families.

"The Programme helped me to look honestly at our monastic life and how we are called to be in the world. Conversion, as Father Mark emphasises in his talk, is all that we are called to in our everyday life for there is no one, if we are honest with ourselves, who does not need conversion. To be faithful to our monastic life in all aspects will be the only way we are going to attract vocations to our monasteries."





## ST BENET'S - CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

FR OSWALD MCBRIDE OSB

PRIOR, ST BENET'S HALL

ON FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2017, current and past members of St Benet's met for the biennial 'Gaudy' to celebrate the Hall's life and work. This year's Gaudy was a particularly significant celebration, since it marked the 120th anniversary of the Hall's existence, and so it was fitting that the dinner should be held in the Members' Dining Room of the House of Commons, through the kindness of Damian Collins MP, member for Folkestone and Hythe and himself an alumnus of the Hall. It was a fabulous and memorable occasion, made even more so by an impromptu tour of the Commons Chamber itself led by our host and a fitting tribute to the liveliness and success of the Hall.

### A little history...

In 1283, Sir John Giffard gave property outside the walls of Oxford to the monks of St Peter's Abbey in Gloucester (now the present Cathedral) for them to found a College for monks to study at the university. The endowment was for a community of 15 Gloucester monks, and this new 'Gloucester College' became the first Benedictine house in the city. The idea was not a new one. The Chapter of the Southern Province had been suggesting the foundation of an Oxford College for monks since 1277 but, as can sometimes happen with Congregational matters, progress had been slow. In 1291, the Chapter took over the administration of the College from Gloucester Abbey, and it then became the common 'study house' for monks of all the monasteries in the Province of Canterbury. Within 30 years, Gloucester College was joined by two other Benedictine houses - Durham College, founded in the late 1280s for the monks of Durham Cathedral Priory and Canterbury College, founded by 1331 for the monks of Canterbury. All three Colleges survived until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540 (and some monk students were still recorded at Durham College in 1542). Indeed, records for the last 40 years of their existence give vivid testimony to the liveliness of Benedictine communities at the brink of the Reformation, with some 266 monk scholars from some 35 monasteries at Oxford between 1500 and 1540 - a quite astonishing number. Substantial remains of the mediaeval buildings can be found both at Gloucester College (now Worcester), where the original mansions (or cottages) of the monasteries remain, and at Durham College (now Trinity), which is built around the mediaeval 'Durham Quad.' Only Canterbury College has completely disappeared, its buildings being demolished by James Wyatt when he rebuilt the Canterbury Quad at Christ Church in the late 18th century.



From the reign of Henry VIII until that of Queen Victoria, Oxford and Cambridge were essentially Anglican strongholds - 'no-go zones' for 'non-conformists' of all types, whether Catholics, other Christian denominations like Methodists and Baptists, or Jewish students. Until 1854 in Oxford, assent to the 'Thirty-Nine Articles' was a requirement for matriculation, and it was not until 1871 that all bars to entry were lifted. Once this happened, other Christian groups moved quite quickly - Halls (now Colleges) like Mansfield and Harris Manchester becoming established for non-conformists in the 1880's. Yet the Catholics and especially the religious Orders - the Jesuits, the Dominicans, and we Benedictines - moved rather slowly. In part this was because Oxford was seen as a dangerous stronghold of Protestant theology, in part because of the nature of student life - in short, Oxford seemed to many like Sodom and Gomorrah in 'gothick' dress - rather too much alcohol, rather too little study. How things have changed!

However, in 1895, Papal permission was given for Catholic students to return to Oxford, strongly encouraged by the work of Cuthbert Hedley, a monk of Ampleforth who had become Bishop of Newport in Wales. Almost immediately, Prior Anselm Burge of Ampleforth started to plan for an Ampleforth house of studies in Oxford - a very far-sighted initiative.

In a sense, the existence of St Benet's is due to a 'loophole' in the University Statutes. As the official structures of the university took shape in the early 1200s, the model used was that of Paris. That meant that the university grew up around its 'Masters' - those who had successfully completed the seven year long programme of studies in the liberal arts. On becoming a Master, each could then set up his own Hall, and advertise for students who would lodge with him, eat with him at a common table and learn from his lectures - applying to the university to ratify and confer their degrees. During the Middle Ages, the academic Halls were the backbone of the university, where most undergraduate students studied. Indeed, around 1,400 AD only seven of the current 38 Colleges of the university existed - but there were around 120 academic Halls, smaller and more fragile structures than the Colleges (especially financially) but far more abundant, at least until the 1540s.

What Ampleforth needed, then, was a monk with an Oxford MA to be Master and then we could found a Hall. In the end, we 'borrowed' a monk from Fort Augustus Abbey - Fr Oswald Hunter Blair, an old Etonian who had converted to Catholicism whilst at Oxford, and a contemporary of Oscar Wilde at Magdalen College - and he became the first Master, establishing 'Hunter Blair's Hall' at 103 Woodstock Road in 1897. Thus was St Benet's born.

There were a number of changes, both of Master and geographical location in the first 20 or so years of the Hall's life. Under Anselm Parker, the second Master and a

monk of Ampleforth, the Hall relocated to Beaumont Street, where the Oxford Playhouse now stands, in 1904. Finally, in 1922, the Hall moved to the current buildings in St Giles. These buildings, dating from the 1830s, were originally two town houses, but had been converted for use as a girls' school run by Ursuline nuns in the early 20th century. The current chapel was built to replace a 'tin chapel' in the garden in 1911, and refurbished in the 1980s. Finally, in 1918, with the vesting of the licence between the university and Ampleforth Abbey, rather than with the individual Masters, the Hall changed its name for the last time, and became St Benet's Hall.

It might be thought that, as monks, we were a little slow in colonising mediaeval Oxford, and there is some truth in that. There had been students at Oxford since the 1060s, and the university seems to have grown rapidly from 1167 onwards. It was headed by a Magister Scolarum Oxoniae by 1201 (who became the Chancellor in 1214), and the Masters were formally recognised as a corporation in 1231. The Dominicans had arrived in 1221, and the Franciscans in 1224 - both groups of friars were to have a significant impact on the study of Theology at Oxford. Even the Cistercians had a small studium at Rewley Abbey (now under the present Saïd Business School) from 1280 onwards, just a few years before the foundation of Gloucester College. If we were slow to recognise the value of Oxford in the 13th century, we had clearly learned our lesson - since the foundation in 1897 was almost the first Catholic Hall to return (the Jesuits beat us by six months).

### The Hall today...

In his work *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, Blessed John Henry Newman wrote his famous phrase: "In a higher world it is otherwise, but here below to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." As an institution aspiring to excellence, it is unsurprising that the Hall today has indeed changed often.

The original foundation was to allow monks from Ampleforth to study for secular degrees at the university, in order to support the teaching of students at Ampleforth College. From the 1970s onwards, the pattern of monastic recruitment changed - with fewer entering the monastery directly from the College at 18, and more coming as graduates post-university, already having a first degree. From a monastic perspective then, the focus has shifted towards St Benet's as a house of study in Theology for monks, whether following the University BA course or, more recently, following the STB course offered by the Dominicans at Blackfriars. The first lay undergraduate was admitted in 1948, and today the majority of our students are laypeople at both graduate and undergraduate level, with around 60 to 70 undergraduates and some 20 graduate students. At undergraduate level, the Hall offers places in Theology, Philosophy and Theology, History, Classics, PPE and

Oriental Studies; four places are offered each year in each of the five Honours Schools, so there are between 60 to 70 undergraduates. There are some 20 graduate students in a slightly wider variety of subjects, including places on the MBA programme at the Saïd Business School and MPP programme at the Blavatnik School of Government. Co-education for graduate students began in 2014. The student body is very varied at both levels, representing a very wide international spread. About 40% of the undergraduates now come from State schools - a figure which is increasing. Because university admission is 'faith blind,' the religious representation in the Hall is equally diverse; there are a number of Catholic students along with students of other Christian denominations, but also Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and some with no faith allegiance.

Since October 2016, both male and female undergraduates have been admitted to the Hall, perhaps the most significant change in our 120 year history. This much-desired development became possible because of the generosity of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who had themselves come to Oxford in the early 20th century to try to foster Catholic education for women at the university. They were facing a restructuring of their mission in England, and offered us first refusal on their former convent at 11 Norham Gardens in North Oxford, about a 10 minute walk from the St Giles buildings. They were aware that the Hall was eager to become fully co-educational, and felt that offering us an option on the building was, in some way, a fulfilment of their original mission. The leasing (at present) of this new building has been transformative. It meant we could at last offer accommodation to female undergraduates, and gave us much needed office space for our Directors of Studies, alongside an increased array of teaching facilities. Fundraising for the final purchase of Norham Gardens, with a £6 million price tag, is on-going, and has recently received a significant boost through the generosity of Lord Anthony Bamford, an Old Amplefordian and Director of his family firm, JCB.

There have been many changes in education at all levels in the past 30 years, whether at school or university, and St Benet's has not escaped the growing focus on regulation, compliance and professionalisation. But in many ways, this has given new life and vigour to the Hall. Even in the mid-1990s, it was possible for Fr Henry, the then Master, to be not only the Master, but also the Bursar, Admissions Tutor, Gardener and Hall Porter - before you consider his prodigious teaching load! The hard work and vision of his successors - Fr Leo Chamberlain, Fr Felix Stephens and now Prof Werner Jeanrond, the current Master - have seen a huge development in the structures of the Hall.

Academic teaching is supervised by the Master, Prof Werner Jeanrond, a theologian and the first lay Master of the Hall, appointed in 2012. He is supported by the Senior Tutor and the seven Tutorial Fellows, alongside six Lecturers and three Senior

Research Fellows. The Hall also uses external tutors from other colleges to support undergraduate teaching. Faculties appoint supervisors for our graduate students, but with an academic advisor appointed by the Hall for each student. Day to day pastoral and disciplinary matters are dealt with by two Junior Deans, one at St Giles, one at Norham Gardens, themselves both doctoral students. The Hall also now has an administrative staff. There is a full-time Bursar who coordinates the day-to-day running of the Hall. The Master has a PA who also deals with development and alumni relations. There is also a Hall Administrator as well as a Housekeeping and Maintenance Manager, who have care for the operation of both buildings. Catering is operated by an external firm, Connect Catering, supervised by the Bursar, and the food is excellent! Overall, the teaching and running of the Hall is now a much more professional operation.

The Hall has a higher public profile within the University than previously. Invitations to the Vice Chancellor and other Heads of House and University Officials mean that the Hall is better understood (and thus better supported) than in times past. The Hall holds regular Study Days, which are well attended. It holds an annual William J Simons public lecture (normally chaired by the University Chancellor, Lord Patten) and also takes its turn with the Catholic Halls in organising the annual Newman Lecture.

There are still many changes we would like to make. Whilst the size and shape of the student body is probably now at its ideal size, if we are to maintain the strong community spirit within the Hall, there is much work to be done to foster the Benedictine character and outreach of the monastic life of the Hall. Much work has been done to strengthen the monastic liturgy of the Hall - ensuring that it provides a nourishing and supportive milieu for the community and for monks in formation. Plans are being laid to make more use of the Hall for Benedictine retreats, in association with Ampleforth, especially in September when the 'conference market' is quite quiet. Since as many monks and nuns have come to the Hall to do postgraduate work in the last five years as have come to do their initial theological studies, we are investigating ways of making the Hall a real centre for on-going formation at both the Congregational and international level. After all, St Benet's is, in many ways, a unique asset to the monastic world; it is the only monastic house situated in what has, for the last two years, been acknowledged as the world's leading university.

Whilst many things have changed, some things remain constant, stable. The Daily Office and Mass are celebrated every day in the Chapel. We eat together at a single common table - Master and monks, staff and students all hugger-mugger together - even if the single table has recently changed shape! At the heart of St Benet's is the monastic community; a community highly valued by students and staff alike, and

which imparts a unique character to the experience of all who form part of the Hall. Equally, the values of the Rule of St Benedict - read each evening at Supper - are part of the lifeblood of the Hall, especially those of mutual service, of commitment, of mutual support, of enduring friendship. And these are not just core values in a mission statement - they are the lived reality of everyday life. The Hall genuinely is a community, and is committed to the goal not only of achieving academic excellence but of 'growing persons in community.' St Benet's is a place where faith and prayer are not only tolerated but respected, and where the value of the 'other' - whether other people or other opinions - is genuinely explored and cherished. In a world of growing isolationism, the retreat into nationalism and the fear and suspicion of organised religion, St Benet's has a unique opportunity to show that there is a different way to shape at least a few of our nation's leaders of the future in the spirit of St Benedict. Perhaps it is no surprise then that, in her speech at the Gaudy, the current Vice Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson concluded by saying: "Oxford needs St Benet's."

If you would like to support the work of St Benet's Hall, please contact Katy Griffiths, PA to the Master, St Benet's Hall, Oxford or Sue Fisher, Director of Development, Ampleforth Abbey







## THE STORY OF FACE-FAW

FR FRANCIS DOBSON OSB (D57)

WITH INFORMATION FROM FR LEO CHAMBERLAIN OSB (A58)

*When I was asked to take over the Journal from Fr Dominic, the first thing I did was to ask Fr Francis to write an account of FACE-FAW. He gave it to me a few months before he died. His obituary will appear in the next issue but meanwhile, this is a good memorial of him. He insisted that I should not cut the names of individuals involved. With typical self-effacement he said it is they who have made FACE-FAW.*

IT WAS IN MAY 1993 (I think) that I came one day into the Headmaster's Room, and Fr Leo's first words were: "We will call it FACE" - this to be the acronym for the organisation carrying out the charity work of Ampleforth: "Friendship and Aid for Central and Eastern Europe." Fr Leo had been running this work for several years, and as he became Headmaster, he asked me to carry it on. A few days later it was agreed to add "FAW" - Friendship and Aid for the World," to include Ampleforth's other aid work, especially in Africa. So FACE-FAW started, but the work, if not the name, went back much further.

In 1940, Fr Paul Nevill (Headmaster 1924-54) had established a hostel in Oswaldkirk for boys who had escaped from Poland after the German invasion. Polish boys lived in the hostel and there they spoke Polish, but each day they came to Ampleforth and were full members of a school house. The hostel continued to the mid-1960s, run for many years by Colonel Dudzinski. So Amplefordians always knew of Poland.

There was no central Europe in the 1950s: the Iron Curtain divided Europe between East and West. The persecuted Church was symbolised by the imprisoned Cardinal Mindszenty. There was a mistaken assumption that in the East things were better after Stalin's death and attention shifted to the needs of the Third World, standing neutral but in fact getting most support from the west. The suppression of the Hungarian revolution in 1956 and repeated Polish agitation revealed the truth.

The one Charity that continued drawing attention to the needs of the still heavily persecuted Christians living under Communism was Aid to the Church in Need. Fr Leo was able to give them occasional support in the 1960s and early 1970s, but during a visit to Hungary at the invitation of Richard Parsons, then British Ambassador (1976-79), Fr Leo made contact with the Benedictines of Pannonhalma and later met Fr Laszlo Lukacs, who visited Ampleforth at the instigation of Peter Unwin (T50), British Ambassador to Hungary from 1983 to 85. In Hungary and elsewhere there were a few Catholic schools, heavily disadvantaged and only allowed to survive for propaganda reasons. The crying need was for contact, and for Catholic teachers, always excluded from British Council opportunities, to have the



chance for study in UK. Generous help from a tutorial establishment in Oxford made this possible and, with the support of Fr Dominic, then Headmaster, Ampleforth gave Catholic students from these schools short-term opportunities for study. By the late 1980s, these extended to schools in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Moscow and St Petersburg.

## Poland

In 1982, St John Paul's visit to Poland had brought the foundation of Solidarity for the first time, a Communist government allowed the flow of material aid. Ampleforth was among those responding to the call of Aid to the Church in Need, with parents and boys raising substantial sums. Barney Ord, with his son Andrew (B83) in the school, lent a massive lorry, in which supplies from Michael (E62) and John Heagney's (E70) supermarkets, with medicines and contributions and an interpreter from the Polish Community of Leeds, drove to Krakow in summer 1982.

By 1987, martial law was bearing heavily on the Poles and Fr Leo wanted to provide encouragement, as well as material aid: the obvious answer was a Schola tour. Funds for this came from different pockets than the material aid. Over the summer of 1987 the Schola Cantorum toured Berlin and Poland. Jonathan Leonard was the conductor and William Dore (D82) the organist; Fr Henry and Fr Leo were with them, and the British Council among others gave financial support. In Berlin Patrick McDermott (British Consul-General and Economic Advisor to the British Commandant) arranged a concert to make a British contribution to the 750th anniversary celebrations of the city. In Poland, they sang at Poznan, and in Warsaw at the grave of Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko, who was murdered in 1985 and was beatified in 2009. After a brief visit to Jasna Gora, the chapel of the Black Madonna, and a more extended stay near Krakow, staying at a newly founded Catholic boarding school and singing in the Marianski Basilica in Krakow, and at Tyniec Benedictine Abbey, they finally drove back to Berlin via Wroclaw (the former Breslau) to be royally entertained by the British Army with a barbecue in the McDermott's garden. The boys had earlier been given a much more modest barbecue outside Krakow and they realised then that their hosts were giving them the best they had, out of the little they had. On some occasions during the tour, families gave hospitality. The boys were repeatedly humbled by their generosity: families gave up their own beds to house the Schola. They went to the memorials to all the suffering of the Polish people from 1830 to the present, the memorials of the dead of the concentration camps of the Nazi period and the memorial to the 15,000 Polish officers killed by the Soviet Union in Katyn.

Meanwhile, in April 1987, the Poland Run aimed to raise money for medical aid. Robin Brodhurst, Eric Magee and Andrew Carter (then Masters at Ampleforth),

helped by Lady Travers, Sarah Travers and Nigel Stourton (D47), planned this with Fr Leo. At noon on Easter Sunday, April 1987, Abbot Patrick Barry at the High Altar of the Abbey signed the document to be carried by the runners and handed over at Westminster. The baton had been on the High Altar overnight after some Middlesbrough runners had carried it to Ampleforth from the Cathedral on Holy Saturday. Over four days, 80 boys and four staff carried the baton, in relay from Ampleforth to the War Memorial near RAF Northolt for the Polish fighter and bomber squadrons of World War II, where they joined others running from Downside and Belmont. At York Minster - in many ways, the high moment of the run - the great West Door was opened and they were greeted by the Dean. There were also stops at Beverley Minster and Cranwell where the runner was greeted by the Station Commander on the morning parade. At the Memorial to the Polish Independent Parachute Brigade, many old soldiers came to join in a prayer with Fr Leo: their hope had been to liberate Warsaw but in the end they could not even return to Poland.

## Branching Out

At about this time, Peregrine Butler (O84, RIP) raised £801 for the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, enabling eye surgeons to perform over 175 operations restoring sight to blind people in two villages in Bangladesh and at Bihar in Asia. So FACE - Friendship and Aid to Central Europe - became FACE-FAW: Friendship and Aid to the World.

By 1993, at the time of the wars in the former Yugoslavia, as we watched the TV pictures of massacres and concentration camps and ethnic cleansing, Fr Leo as Headmaster launched an Appeal through FACE-FAW for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Between January and August 1993, this Appeal raised £30,744. Each House did a sponsored event and sold raffle tickets, together raising two thirds of the total: St Cuthbert's and St Edward's ran half marathons, St John's completed a 24-hour run, St Oswald's had a tug-of-war, St Dunstan's a 12-hour swim, St Bede's a 30-hour silence, St Hugh's a series of events including a cycle ride to York and St Thomas's walked, or really shuffled, in a human centipede (their legs chained together) for a mile. The Ampleforth Singers directed by Charles Cole (T93) raised £1,130 from two concerts in Helmsley with memorable playing by Adam Wright (J96) and Charles Dalglish (J93), and at Our Lady, Help of Christians in Kentish Town. Four Fast Days raised £2,560. James Arbutnott, father of Jack (E96), Albert (D06) and Walter (J10), arranged a music festival in his garden and Ampleforth suppliers gave £5,902.

As a result, John Allcott (Ampleforth staff), Simon Scott (T57, died 2010), Michael Killourhy (E89), Rupert Cotterell (E87), Henry Fitzherbert (E90) and William Bridgeman drove in a convoy a lorry of flour, oil and other of items for refugee

children under five at Gorni Vakuf. Five families in Citluk rebuilt their houses, the money being carried in £10 and £20 notes in an unwashed pair of socks of Simon Scott. Funds also went to a children's hospital in Zagreb and a water project for Gradska.

In May 2013, through the Croatian Church Trust based in London another FACE-FAW lorry took flour, oil and other supplies to central Bosnia.

## Structure of FACE-FAW

From the 1990s onwards, FACE-FAW aimed to represent everyone in the school and coordinate all student fundraising. Each House had one or more representatives called HATs (House Aid Team) in each Year and each Year's HATs met to share in the planning and execution of policy. The Year 13 HATs formed a Coordinating Group (COG), authorising all payments for projects and all fundraising activities. HATs acted as links with those in their year in the House, rather like parliamentary whips, and they numbered 50 or more. They played many key roles but perhaps only partially achieved this link with year groups. As to the central role of COG, the 2017 Student Handbook says: "FACE-FAW acts on behalf of all students in supporting charitable projects. Any student and any member of staff is welcome to suggest support for a particular project to the COG or any HAT of FACE-FAW. Charitable projects supported are decided by COG in consultation with the organisers in Year 12 of the Friendship Holiday, and in consultation with HATS."

Directors (or Chairmen) of COG were Matthew Bowen-Wright (H95), Michael Hirst (A96), Euan O'Sullivan (B97), Edward Molony (J98), Patrick Tollhurst (C99), Henry Foster (H00), Tom Lawless (H00), Matthew Gilbert (J01), Edward Cameron (C02), Mark Rizzo (H03), Edward Foster (H04), Duncan Phillips (D05), George Fitzherbert-Brockholes (D06), Louis Wallace (C07), Charlie Foster (H08), Tom Dales (D10), Libby Simpson (B11), Angus Duncan (T11), Nathan Too (J12), Oliver Legard (J13), Charlie Mingay (EW14), Henry Deacy (H15), Michael Higham (J16) and Christian Laczko-Shroeder (J17).

Through the 1990s and until about 2010 Kevin Dunne (Modern Languages staff) was an assistant, especially on gap year work. Joe Mishra (CT Department) helped FACE-FAW for several years. From 2014 to 2017, Richard Hudson (W94, CT Department, Deputy Head Sixth Form) played an increasing part in the activities of FACE-FAW as Deputy Coordinator, besides being Director of the Friendship Holiday. There were links with projects of other members of staff: Matthew Torrens-Burton and his work for the Pahar Trust; Andrew Carter and Dan Davison (O00), who had also played a notable role as a student, William Dore and Chris Starkey. In 2013, at the invitation of John Browne (Deputy Headmaster), FACE-FAW moved

from the Clock Tower to a room in the Main Hall, with its own electronic screen, and three significant notice boards.

From 1993 to 2017, FACE-FAW supported projects in many parts of the world - in Africa in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Uganda, the Sudan, South Africa and Malawi; in South America in Columbia, Ecuador and Chile; in Asia in Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar); in Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, India and the Philippines; in the Middle East in Iraq; in Eastern Europe in Poland, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania and the Russian Federation (sending books in 1993 to a school in St Petersburg) and in Haiti. In recent years there was support for Mary's Meals and in 2013 the student Director of FACE-FAW, Oliver Ledger (J13), led FACE-FAW to adopt, through Mary's Meals, a school in Malawi: Chigwaja Primary School, where they funded a kitchen and since then meals for the children. In 2016-2017 FACE-FAW raised £16,911 for Mary's Meals.

Occasionally, COG responded to a current crisis: the Tsunami Appeal (2005), especially involving St Oswald's House; Help the Heroes and the needs of those injured in Afghanistan; earthquakes in Haiti (2010) and Nepal (2015); the plight of Christians forced to flee from ISIS in Iraq (2015) and in 2013 FACE-FAW supported a Joint Appeal of all Benedictine schools in the British Isles to help Benedictine sisters in the Philippines suffering after Typhoon Haijan.

There were links and support with Ampleforth groups visiting areas, such as the 2013 and 2017 expeditions to Nepal and Gilung School and in 2016, Saphara in India; and for Gabrielle Foster's (Housemistress of St Margaret's from September 2017) Perfect Day Foundation in Zambia.

## Offshoots

FACE-FAW has influenced Old Amplefordians and the relationships have been reciprocal.

After Peter Sidgwick (C97) went to Romania and Ceausescu's orphanages in 1997, he started a charity Liberis (originally Homes for the Future) to set up homes for orphan children both mentally and physically handicapped and later, through Peter Sidgwick and Dominic McCann (O02), FACE-FAW went on to support Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation in North-East Romania. FACE-FAW supported the work of Ferdinand von Habsburg (E87) in Sudan (what is now South Sudan) and for the Diocese of El Obeid, where Muslims, Christians and animists live together. There was support for projects linked to Ampleforth in some way. In Chile, students were sponsored at San Lorenzo School in Santiago of the Apostolic Manquehue Movement. In 2007, the 1887 Kilometre Run supported Matthew Procter MBE



(W80) and the charity Miracles for a prosthetic unit near Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Ecuador, a seminary at Chambo was supported through a fun run by Elizabeth Wareham, daughter of Sir David Goodall (W50, died 2016). Christopher David (O44) helped start the seminary in 1998 and was himself Director, helping poor people become priests; 16 have been ordained and are now serving as priests with the poor people of the hill areas of Ecuador. A school in India was supported by FACE-FAW through Dr Peter Watkins (B54). Dominic McCann (O02) introduced us to a children's project in Romania, sponsoring Summer Camps and Brenda Abbott, a former Housemistress of St Aidan's and sister of Fr Wulstan, channelled funds to Mozambique for the evangelization of the vast Diocese of Xai Xai. In December 2008 there was Poverty for Poverty: Geoffrey Chapman (J09) and Oli Greaves (J09) lived in a tent for five days in what turned out to be a heavy snow and eventually a fierce blizzard to support those living in poverty in Zimbabwe through our Monastery of Christ the Word and raised £6,115.

One project stands out; the Friendship Holiday held at Ampleforth each year since 2004. About 30 Year 12 students shared a holiday with children with severe learning difficulties and physical disabilities from Oak Field School and Sports College near Nottingham. Invented and proposed at a COG meeting in December 2003 by Christopher Gallagher (then on the Ampleforth staff), the Friendship Holiday is run independently of the general operations of FACE-FAW, though since 2014, Richard Hudson (also Deputy Coordinator FACE-FAW) has been Director of the Friendship Holiday. It is held at Ampleforth at the end of the Summer Term, but they raise funds to finance the holiday, normally over £10,000, notably through the sponsored Big Walk, when students walk a total of 45 miles in 24 hours from Whitby Abbey to Ampleforth Abbey.

Local projects were sometimes supported: hospices and hostels for the homeless and refugees in North Yorkshire, as well as the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

## Fundraising Events

These projects have been made possible by all sorts of events. For three years, there were readings of ten hours each: in 2008, Honour the 600 (Tennyson and the Charge of the Light Brigade) was organised by Patrick Garety (O08) with the English Department; in 2010, Keriba Cock and Bull (Lawrence Sterne and Tristram Shandy); in 2015 as part of Shac-along, various different readings. Then, for four years, there were Rowathons in Sports Centre where rowing machines were connected to electronic timers and students and staff contributed towards a collective distance through various events. This was the idea of Joe Mycielski (O90), who was Director of Development at the time, and Claire Evans (now in the Marketing Office), with the free loan of rowing machines arranged by Andrew Green, the father of Alexander

(T10) and Nicholas Green (T12). In total, these raised about £70,000, supporting Hope and Homes for Children, Cancer Research, Francis Maria Libermann School in Zanzibar and Ampleforth's own Bruno Bursary Fund. There were fun running events in Shac-along in 2015 and in Shacathon in 2016 and in 2017, the Colour Run supporting Mary's Meals: the whole school had to run, dressed in Mary's Meals tee-shirts, in Houses, along the Avenue at Gilling Castle while other Houses doused them thoroughly with coloured powder.

In 2009, coordinated by Marc di Guisto (T09), each House joined FACE-FAW Poverty for Poverty, sharing in poverty, helping those living in poverty, each supporting different FACE-FAW projects: St Thomas' House built a stone altar on Aumit Hill, St Bede's turned off its main water and collected water from the pavilion and shared in fasting, St Oswald's walked around barefoot for a day, other houses fasted, kept silence, ran, swam or lived as a homeless person - and the English Department did their teaching and other duties in silence. From 1997 to about 2005, the Exhibition Balloon Race was held - the longest balloon journey was to near Nevers in France. The Sedbergh Guessing Game was to guess the total combined score for Ampleforth in about a dozen Sedbergh matches on the one afternoon.

The Hornung Exhibition Croquet Tournament thought up by a group of Year 10 HATS, Charlie Mingay (EW14), George Hornung (EW14), Michael Hulskamp (J14), George Byrne Hill (O14), Roley Thomas (D14), supported FACE-FAW work in Bosnia-Herzegovina and then Zanzibar. From 1992 to 2006, the Insider-Outsider Sixth Form rugby match between former students of Gilling and Junior House, and those from other schools supported FACE-FAW. In 2014, Tom Worth (T17) and his father Danni Worth cycled 800 miles on the Camino from Roncesvalles to Santiago de Compostella, and his sister Alexandra Worth (M) and her mother Claire Worth walked 100 miles to Santiago, raising over £11,000 for Mary's Meals. In 2000, Jonathan Black (H00) and Luke Bartosik (A00) climbed the Three Peaks in just under 24 hours. In 2003, Beilby Forbes Adam (D03), Tom Gosling (EW04) and Duncan Phillips (D04) did the Tour de Trigs, walking 50 miles in 24 hours through Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire and raising £2,000 for the Friendship Holiday, and in 2013, Harry Blakiston-Houston (EW14), Louis Hall (EW14), Reiss Bush (EW14), George Byrne-Hill (O14), Julia Gargan (M14), Madeleine Higham (M14), Emily Dore (M14), Grace Grant (A14) and Freya Pratt (B14) did a 24-hour cycle ride (the distance from London to Paris) to support the Friendship Holiday.

In 2014, Jasper Mohan (H) cycled 252 miles on a stationary machine in the Main Hall at Ampleforth in 9 hours and 33 minutes (6.35am to 4.08pm) supporting Ampleforth's Bruno Bursary Fund. In 2000, Paul Dobson (C00) and David Lieser (C00) cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats. In 2009, students and staff took

part in the Parachute Regiment's 10 mile Race in support of Help the Heroes. There were concerts: in 2017 Imogen Wood (M17) and Ampleforth Angels performed and Tom Channer (D17) organised a concert. Editors of school magazines such as Grid gave surpluses to FACE-FAW - Patrick Duncombe (A00) and James Osborne (J/A00). There were sponsored bungee jumps: in 1997 by Richard Hobbes (D97) and Loughlin Kennedy (D97); in 2008 by Charlotte Codrington (M08), Dominic Fogarty (T08) and Edward Noble (C08), while the Ampleforth Highlanders Pipe Band played at the bridge by the River Tees, raising £5,500 in sponsorship for Help for Heroes. In 1998, Jimmy Rueckel (W98) had a House Photography Event. In 1999, William Calvert (03), Ben Dixon (H02), Jamie Ramage (D03) and John Shepherd (staff) made 1,000 door wedges in English hardwood, sold to support those suffering in Kosovo. From 1996 there was for some years a House Tug-of War Competition to support FACE-FAW. In 1999, Daniel Kirkpatrick (B99) organised a House football competition. Also in 1999, a 24-hour Swim over 2,387 lengths by 12 boys of St Thomas's House and in 2014 Andrew Bakers' (T16) Ten Mile Swim supported FACE-FAW. In 2001 Alexander Radcliffe (H01) led a team of car washers at Exhibition. In 2004 there was a Fantasy Football Competition. In 2000 St Wilfrid's had a Talent Competition.

In 2006 Louis Wallace (C07) gave a talk on his Climbing of the Matterhorn and arranged a collection for FACE-FAW. In 2007, Alasdair (C08) and Henry (H11) Lochrane organised the sending of Christmas parcels to British troops in Afghanistan. In 2014, Katie Hornyold-Strickland (M14) arranged an Exhibition Silent Auction supporting several FACE-FAW linked charities. In 2009-10, Tom Dales (D10), Ellie Kramers (A10), Cecilia Horsburgh (A10) and Rodrigo Fenn Torrente (D10) sold bacon butties in the morning break, making £200 in two days. Raffle prizes included holiday weekends at the Durham Ox, Crayke, at a hotel in the Lake District, a Parliamentary Hamper and a day's hunting with the Middleton Hunt. In 2010, Killian Greenwood (J10), Alexander Hall (D12), Edward Robinson (O12) and Jane Butler (former Manager at St Alban's Sports Centre) did a 24-Hour Run for Mary's Meals, raising £1,529.88. In July 2012, Jamie Macdonald (O) and Alfie Wiener (O) travelled 874 miles on a longboard (a large skateboard) from Land's End to John O'Groats over 27 days, supporting Whizz-Kidz (for disabled children) and Teenage Cancer, raising £21,000 independently of FACE-FAW, but with its support and congratulations.

In 2013, Hugh Dutton (D14), Alexander Plowden (D14) and Guillaume Shrimpton (D14) cycled 422 miles from Ampleforth to Cheshire via Scotland, raising £2,659 for Mary's Meals. In 2011, Maximilian Toone (O13) and Dominic Walsh (D13) with other friends did a Coast-to-Coast Walk from St Bees to Robin Hoods Bay, 192 miles, raising £1,901 for Mary's Meals.

Funding also came from the Second Hand Clothes Shop at Ampleforth, run by Priscilla McAndrew, mother of Frank (W02), Ben (W/EW03) and Dominic (EW06). There was marketing of hoodies, sweaters, boxer shorts, T-shirts, mugs, glasses, key rings and limited edition numbered prints of two paintings of Ampleforth by the Lincolnshire artist John Brookes. Celia Olley (former member of staff) arranged with some HATS regular second hand clothes sales for a number of years. There was support from the Music Department, the CT Department, Sports Department and the English Department. There was also the making and selling of pizzas.

In 2006 Beilby Forbes Adam (D05) and Duncan Phillips (D05), already mentioned above in their Ampleforth student days, cycled 1,099 kilometres from Ampleforth to Lamspringe (the site of the monastery school from which the original 12 boys came to Ampleforth in April 1803) and then on to Dieulouard (from where the monks arrived in 1802 and were resident from 1608 to 1793). In 2002, Tom Dollard (O00) and Simon McAleenan (H00) cycled coast to coast, encountering 17,000 feet of hills, supporting Liberis, the charity in Romania founded by Peter Sidgwick (C97). In 2010, David Tate (E47, died 2012) and John Morton (C55) on behalf of the London Committee of the Ampleforth Society gave £3,085 surplus funds from events held in 2002 to celebrate the bicentenary of the arrival at Ampleforth, supporting the Miracles Prosthetic Unit near Mostar.

In 2010, James Nolan (T78) and about 20 friends financed a bus for £20,000 for the Francis Maria Libermann School in Zanzibar; this was used until 2017, when it was sold to help finance a new bus. In May 2003, there was a Gurkha Evening with 200 people, including 55 students, with Gurkha Guards bagpipes and Gurka bhat food, raising £7,378 to pay for half a new school in Nepal. In the 1990s, there were some Medical Conventions - days when doctors clocked-up points for training - organised by FACE-FAW with many hours of help from Enid Craston, sister of Fr Justin Caldwell (B47, died 2013), mother Stephen (O71), Matthew Craston (O76) and Edmund Craston (O82). James Jeffrey (C97) ran marathons in Iraq in 2006 and New York in 2007, supporting St Joseph School in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Theatrical Theatre Productions, directed by Richard Flynn (O04), was a group of Amplefordians performing at the Edinburgh Festival in 2005 and 2006, donating significant surpluses to FACE-FAW.

## Overseas Placements

Another important service provided by FACE-FAW was to arrange Gap Years - so called, but normally much shorter - for students as they left, or sometimes for older Amplefordians, and once for a current Year 12 student in the summer holidays. There were attachments at a school of the Piarist Order in Hungary and with schools in St Petersburg, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Zanzibar. Chainarong Monthienvichienchai,

Chancellor of St John's University, Bangkok, the father of Peter (D95) and Charles (O99) arranged a placement at a poor Catholic school at Thabon, in the northern hills of Thailand and Fr Mark (O49) enabled connections with schools in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and in India, as well as work with the Missionaries of Charity in Ethiopia. Alexander Dietl (C14) taught at the convent school next door to our Monastery of Christ the Word in Zimbabwe. Nearer home, Raymond Anakwe (A93) worked at St Leonard's Hospice in York and some went to live in the L'Arche house near Calais. Some of these responded with generous accounts: Emily Leeming (A07) and Camilla du Boulay (A07) in Zanzibar in 2007, Theo Henriot (J00) with the Cistercians and their school in Gonder in Ethiopia, Alex Hall (D12) in 2011 in Romania; Laura Criddle (A07) with the Missionaries of Charity in Ethiopia (writing of some powerful experiences with the dying) Holly Thurman (M08) in Ethiopia in 2011 and Suraj Jabo (D12) in Ethiopia.

From about 1993 to about 2005, FACE-FAW facilitated and organised the process of choosing leavers to go for six-months to live, pray and work with the Manquehue Movement in Chile: Martin Mullin (B92) and Matthew Bowen-Wright (H95) were involved with this.

For several years arranged for students to come to Ampleforth for short stays from Lithuania, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Romania and regularly from the Piarist school in Hungary, overseen by Kevin Dunne (formerly of the Modern Language Department).

FACE-FAW aimed also to increase awareness of these needs of the charities it supported. For five years, FACE-FAW published its own magazine, *The Hedgehog and The Fox*, the idea of Luke Poloniecki (A99). There were ten editions, with editors Henry Foster (H00), Dominic Mullen (O00), William Weston (C01), Harry Hall (E01), Edward Hickman (O01), Joshua Tucker (T03), Johnnie Stein (B03), Tom Spanner (W/EW04), Beilby Forbes-Adam (D05) and Duncan Phillips (D05), as well as memorable cartoons from Tom O'Brien (H03) and Thomas Gay (O03). Another newspaper *Eureka* also supported FACE-FAW. There were visiting lecturers, as many as five in one year. FACE-FAW led the local news on one occasion during the Balkan wars in 1993, describing the departure of aid. There was a FACE-FAW Photographic Exhibition in the Big Passage on the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 2013, Oliver Legard (J13) produced a FACE-FAW film shown at Exhibition that year. Recently, the films *Child31* and *Generation Hope* were shown in Houses to spread awareness of Mary's Meals. FACE-FAW noticeboards proliferated around the school with an electronic screen with information in the Main Hall. Emails and HAT meetings spread the news; the rosary was said daily before lunch in the Abbey Church, led by a group of facilitators.

The mission of FACE-FAW is to share. When Fr Dominic opened the Manquehue Movement's San Lorenzo School in downtown Santiago in the 1990s, an old man without legs and who lived in a cardboard box called Don Juan gave him a gift of a wooden carved crucifix made by his son. This incident was re-enacted in a FACE-FAW play at two school assemblies, in February 2004 and March 2005 and in the second of these, the Narrator, Freddie Woodhead (O05), said: "to accept a gift is to accept something of another, to share, to love, to hope, to accept is to give. I share my life and I share his life. Don Juan is singing. Round his neck there hangs a wooden crucifix - a carved figure of Christ - very small, beautiful, simple. It was carved by his son. It is very special to Don Juan. Don Juan took off his Crucifix, the figure of Christ around his neck, the figure carved by my son and he gave it to Fr Dominic." Fr Dominic, played by Hal Forbes Adam (D08), knew he must accept this gift of the figure of Christ Crucified, and today it is in his monastic room. Don Juan, played by Harry Donoghue (O05) said: "It's the most precious thing I have - in fact the only thing."

FACE-FAW is the creation of Fr Leo, an inspiration of Hope.



## HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES

*After their Retreat in November, the Year 12 students gathered in the darkness of the candlelit Abbey Church and listened to impressions of the visits they had made earlier that day, in groups of a dozen or so, read anonymously by one or two from each group. At the end, many remained to pray for some time in silence.*

### Arc Light York

Arc Light York is a hostel for homeless people. We discussed many aspects of homelessness including who might become homeless, how it might feel to be homeless, as well as the different aspects of the work of Arc Light. Seamus who led our day told us how Arc Light started its history and how it functions now. He also opened our eyes to different situations and problems that homeless people might face. He has been working for Arc Light for over 15 years and says he loves his work and his experiences are fascinating in both good and bad ways.

A new employee briefly spoke to us about how she grew up an orphan, self-taught herself, gained a Masters and then came to work at Arc Light, as she wants to help those who have less than her.

We also spoke to Tom who is a resident at Arc Light. He told us how he attended Ampleforth Junior School, was very clever and got a degree but got into drugs aged 26, which led to him spending money on drugs rather than rent and then stopping work. Tom was sleeping rough for 13 weeks and even experienced acts of violence. He now has plans for the future, to get a job starting small as an employee in Tesco or Waitrose and then start climbing up. Throughout our talk with him, Tom was shaking and we could see the effect the drugs had had on him. However, his current strength and mind-set was inspiring and his advice to us - 'not to ruin or throw away our education' - along with his first statement to us which was: 'kids don't do drugs,' meant we left with a better insight as to how small decisions, such as that of taking drugs can cause a huge effect or completely destroy our lives.

Even though people get to the stage of sleeping rough, our time at Arc Light showed us that there are amazing services and people to help others get back onto their feet.

### St George's Crypt, Leeds

Today we visited St George's Crypt, which is a shelter for homeless people located in the heart of Leeds. We were very kindly hosted by Fr Roger. He is the Chaplain to the crypt and has been serving there for the past four years. He celebrates Mass every day, prays with those who want to, as well as helping with the day-to-day

chores. One thing the people we met had in common was faith. They expressed deeply how much their faith had helped them through their journey.

As a group we were particularly moved by the way in which service was given. Almost everyone we met felt the necessity to give back to the crypt what they had received, even if still homeless. The crypt showed us how important service is in faith. The joy some of the volunteers got out of serving others was truly unforgettable. As a group we enjoyed seeing how people found strength in their difficulties through the community of the staff and others with similar problems. As a whole we were truly moved and inspired by our experiences at the crypt.

### St John's Catholic School for the Deaf

A group of us visited St John's Catholic School for the Deaf. We were introduced to the teachers of the school, as well as some of the Year 11 students and the Sixth Formers.

Our focus was on how the problems of deaf people impact on daily life. The problem seemed to be more acute for day students in the school, as they have to be focussed on their studies and also how the teaching patterns in mainstream schooling makes learning an impossible task for them. It became clear that everyone involved at the school had no negativity about deafness and the teachers put a lot of effort into their service.

Although St John's is a Catholic school, they had a variety of religions varying from Islam to Buddhism.

We saw that the pride the teachers took in their service meant that the students had opportunities. Many went on to university and had qualifications that would help them get a job. The students were so grateful that they were able to make friends who were part of the deaf world and they could relate to their friends so that they did not feel isolated which might happen when they could not understand people in the hearing world. You could see just how important sign language was in their lives. The experience showed how deaf people differ from the stereotype that they carry and that their problems can vary and no matter what, St John's school gave them the attention and help they needed.

### HM Prison Kirklevington

Today my group visited a Category D prison called Kirklevington and had the chance to speak to a couple of prisoners and ask them questions. From the start, all the inmates working in the cafe that we met in seemed friendly, polite and welcoming,

which was something I found slightly unexpected from inmates. The prisoners who spoke to us seemed to want to change their lives. They expressed how much the prison had helped them to start to integrate with the outside world again but also how much they regret not being free anymore. They made us reflect on our lives and think about how lucky we are to have such freedom, to have the freedom to go out and meet people and to be able to spend time with our families whenever we want to. It also made us realise that we must never take anything for granted.

We went for a walk around the Prison. It only took us five minutes so you can imagine it isn't very big. They had a couple of football pitches and a large sports hall where most of the men spend some of their free time unwinding and concentrating on their health and also to socialise and integrate with the other inmates.

I think that hearing these people's stories made us all reflect on our own lives and how being free is so important, not only for ourselves, but also for our families and others in our community who care for us.

## Oakfield School

Today we visited Oakfield School. We were hosted by the teachers and volunteers there who give an education to those who previously would not have received one. They remind the children of their self-worth and value every day, something we all found really inspiring. We observed the satisfaction and joy which comes from serving these children. One thing we all noticed was the happiness the children had when being with people their own age and it made us particularly appreciate how lucky we are and for all the gifts we have received from God

## Leonard Cheshire Homes

My group went to Alne Hall, a home for disabled people over 18. Alne Hall was founded by Leonard Cheshire as a charity for the disabled. We started the day with a talk on Leonard Cheshire. It was really insightful about how people with disabilities can sometimes feel unable to express themselves properly. The nurse asked us what it would be like to be unable to talk or even move to communicate with people. This is often how people suffering with severe disabilities feel a lot of the time.

It was quite hard for me to imagine never being able to have a real conversation with people to talk about things I like, or your past experiences.

I think that we often take for granted our ability to talk to people and walk to wherever we want to go. It's a freedom most disabled people don't get. We spoke

to the residents of the home after the talk and I found it very inspiring to see how these people would not let their disabilities stop them from expressing themselves, to try and talk to us even though it was so hard for them. For example there was a man, Spike, who could only communicate through a keyboard. We also found that many famous people such as Winston Churchill and David Beckham also have a disability, showing how you can't define people or stop them from achieving their goals.

One in six people will have some form of disability and unlike the common belief that most people with a disability are born with them, eight in 12 people develop their disability later in life. More people have disabilities than we realise and I think it is important to try to understand them, to be patient and kind to them first, like the many volunteers that make up Leonard Cheshire Disability. We should appreciate our freedom and help those who don't have it.

## Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

Today, seven of us visited the Franciscan Friars in Bradford who organise a soup kitchen. Their three main priorities are prayer, community life and evangelising. The Friars' motive is 'rebuild my Church' which shows that they are inspired by their faith to want to serve. It is something that they are passionate about.

The soup kitchen is set up every Tuesday and Thursday for anyone in need around the area. They usually have around 60 to 100 people each day. Although the Friars are the main people involved in this act of service, there are also many volunteers who help who are mostly ex-addicts and people who were once also in need themselves.

We all agreed on the fact that there was a very warm and welcoming atmosphere and that it felt like a proper home rather than an institution. There was no division between the people serving and the people receiving. We were limited in how much interaction we were allowed with the homeless but nevertheless it was still extremely rewarding to help out in the kitchen. Some guests were more grateful than others and some were happy with whatever they were able to get.

Visiting this place was a real eye-opener for us; we realised that serving others in this situation didn't just mean giving them something to eat and drink but making sure they had someone who treated them like humans and not outcasts.

Furthermore, another thing which struck us was that the volunteers gained as much out of the situation as the guests. They shed light on the people's life and their prayer and faith kept them going.





## THE LAMPEDUSA CROSS

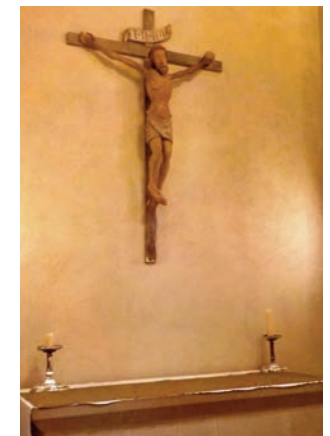
FR CHAD BOULTON OSB



**I**N HOLY CROSS CHAPEL, the small chapel to the south of the Nave and the west of the Lady Chapel, are three very different crosses. The largest and most dramatic hangs on the eastern wall. Fashioned in Northern Italy in the 15th century, the gaunt figure of Jesus evokes the horrors of the Black Death. The brightest and most arresting shines through the Reyntiens window on the south wall. Created after the death of Cardinal Hume, it commemorates his work with a group of friends to raise money for the Red Cross during the Second World War. The smallest and most recent addition is tucked into the western wall. Given by the Focolare movement during their major retreat here last year, it is a Lampedusa Cross.

This cross is made from pieces of a boat that was wrecked on 11th October 2013 off the coast of Lampedusa, a small Italian island 50 miles off the coast of North Africa. A total of 311 Eritrean and Somali refugees were drowned en-route from Libya to Europe. Inhabitants of Lampedusa helped to save the lives of 155 others. After meeting some of the survivors who are Eritrean Christians in the church on Lampedusa, Mr Tuccio, the island's carpenter, was moved by their plight but felt frustrated that he could not make a difference to their situation. The best he could do was to use his skills as a carpenter to fashion each of them a cross from the wreckage of the boat as a reflection on their salvation from the sea and hope for the future. A similar cross was made for Pope Francis who carried it at a memorial service for those who had perished.

Within this one small chapel, therefore, we are confronted by the suffering brought by the Black Death, the Second World War and the current migration crisis; three very different historical moments, but all moments of an almost unimaginable scale. The pestilence, sword and famine these represent are traditionally portrayed through the terrifying images of the horsemen of the apocalypse. But in this tiny chapel, they are presented through the saving image of the cross, a symbol of horror but also of hope. O crux sancta...







## LIVE STREAMING OF THE OFFICE FROM THE CHOIR

THERE HAVE BEEN LOUDSPEAKERS in the monks' choir for years, to enable everybody to hear the readings and the prayers. These are fed by microphones at the lectern and the Hebdom's stall (the Hebdomadarius is the monk, appointed by rota each week, who begins and ends each Office and reads the prayers). For the last two years, this feed has been connected to equipment in the sacristy that makes it available on the World Wide Web, by means of the Internet. This process is called Live Streaming.

Anyone who has a computer, tablet or phone that is connected to the Internet can access this and the evidence is that many do. Matins is at 6.00am until about 6.35am, Lauds is at 7.30am until 7.50am and the Little Hour (about ten minutes) is at 8.45am. Conventual Mass is broadcast at 12.45pm (there is an additional microphone on the altar). Vespers is usually at 6.00pm (sometimes at 6.30pm) and Compline is at 8.15pm. On Sundays these timings are different: 6.45am, 8.00am, Mass at 10.00am, Little Hour at 1.00pm and Vespers at 6.20pm followed by Benediction. Sometimes the equipment malfunctions and it is encouraging to know that people do actually listen to the live streaming because the Prior then receives emails from various people demanding to know what is happening or, rather, why it isn't happening.

We know that people as far away as Illinois in the United States and Chile link up to listen to the Ampleforth monks celebrating Mass and carrying out what St Benedict calls the Work of God: the Divine Office. As such, it is popular with many of our Oblates.

Since October, when the Community moved into Bolton House for 18 months while the Monastery is being refurbished, only the daily community Mass and the Little Office have been celebrated in the Abbey Church choir; the rest of the Office takes place in the Chapel in Bolton House. There is only space for half a dozen or so visitors here, so the people who come for retreats at Ampleforth, often in groups of 20 or so, are no longer able to join the monks for the Office, which has always been an important part of their retreat for most of them.

However, using a microphone there, not only is all the Office still being live streamed on the Internet, it is also fed to loudspeakers in the Abbey Church choir. This means that people on retreat can go to the Choir and listen to, and join in with, the Office there and this has been appreciated. Anyone wanting to share this experience can access the feed via the new Abbey website: [www.ampleforth.org.uk/abbey](http://www.ampleforth.org.uk/abbey)

# REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE AMPLEFORTH SOCIETY

DAVID O'KELLY (C81)

HON TREASURER & TRUSTEE OF THE AMPLEFORTH SOCIETY

The objectives of the Ampleforth Society are to promote the Catholic faith and to advance education by fostering relationships between members and associate members and other persons associated with Ampleforth Abbey and Ampleforth College and engaging in activities which support the abbey and advance the education of the pupils attending the college. In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

There were no changes to the Objectives of the Society this year. In setting the objects and activities the Trustees have had due regard for public benefit.

At the Trustees meeting in March, reports were received from the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary and several issues were discussed. The business plan for the Society was implemented in FY 16/17.

The valuation of the Society's portfolio as at 31st August 2017 shows a rise in capital terms of just under 8% during the year in question. As ever, we can add the income to this to bring the total return closer to 15% which adequately meets the performance requirements of the Trustees.

The Investment sub-committee did not physically meet during the year but have continued to monitor closely, in association with the Investment Managers, the performance of the portfolio. The Investment Policy, in seeking a balance between income and growth, includes a higher proportion of equities and alternative investments to cash and bonds. In terms of risk, the Committee is willing to accept a medium degree of risk to seek to increase the value of the portfolio over the longer term.

The Society has benefited once more from unexpected, but welcome, donations.

## Achievement and Performance

The Society continues to meet its objectives by supporting its members through the provision of grants, and the School through the funding of Bursaries. In this financial year it will have achieved a level of support equivalent to 2.5 full bursaries (value £83,475) a 2% increase in cash terms on the previous year but matching a

commensurate rise in school fees. We note that the increase in school fees and the reduction in the number of students paying them still causes there to be a funding gap with regard to Bursaries; this continues to limit the ability to increase funding support for the time being but it nevertheless remains an aim of the Trustees.

The bursaries are granted to the Ampleforth Abbey Trust. How these funds are disbursed is then a matter for their Trustees to determine.

The Society continues to provide grants to a number of Clubs within the Society and to some specific events. These change from year to year and, as part of an on-going initiative to provide wider support, they will continue to be supported.

The Development Office, working closely with the Trustees, continues to develop and maintain strong relations with all members of the Society. Further improved communications have taken place this year informing the membership (c.16,000) about developments. The online element of the Society continues to grow and this in turn enables the Society to communicate much better with a much broader audience.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

The management of the charity is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Trust Deed.

At the AGM the members approved a revised constitution; the most significant alteration to this was that of a revised membership; the following are now automatically members of the Ampleforth Society:

- All Old Amplefordians
- All parents or guardians of qualifying students
- All professed monks of the community
- All members of the teaching and support staff with over 2 years' experience
- Friends of Ampleforth

The Trustees took the decision to invest in Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.



## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2017

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| INCOME                            | £       |
| Donations and Legacies            | 78,809  |
| Investments                       | 11,104  |
| Other income                      | 192     |
| Total:                            | 90,105  |
|                                   |         |
| EXPENDITURE                       |         |
| Raising funds                     | 5,597   |
| Charitable Activities             | 87,286  |
| Total:                            | 92,883  |
|                                   |         |
| Net incoming/(outgoing) resources | (2,778) |
| Gains on Investment Assets        | 46,005  |
| Net movement in funds             | 43,227  |
|                                   |         |
| Balance B/F at 1 Sep 2016         | 631,735 |
| Balance of funds carried forward  | 674,962 |

## OLD AMPLEFORDIAN OBITUARIES

*The following pages contain a number of obituaries of Old Amplefordians who have died since the last Journal. A full list of Old Amplefordian and Ampleforth Society members deaths is available on the website:  
[www.ampleforth.org.uk/society](http://www.ampleforth.org.uk/society)*

**JAMES FRANCIS ALAN YOUNG (T57) 27th January 1939 - 26th July 2016**, who died at the age of 77, was a Fleet Street journalist of the old school. In a career that spanned 50 years he worked as a feature writer and then sub-editor at the Press Association, the Sunday Telegraph and the Daily Telegraph, the short-lived Sunday Correspondent, and, finally, at The Spectator, where his editor was Boris Johnson. This was an era when journalists took their dogs to work at the Georgian offices in Doughty Street, Bloomsbury, and James' feisty pint-sized Pomeranian, Tiger, was a honorary colleague there.

The Foreign Secretary has fond memories of James. "In so far as The Spectator survived my editorship," he says, "and in so far as it retained its global reputation - for dry humour, good writing, learning and literary distinction - it was very largely thanks to James' judgment. He helped us avoid all kinds of goofs and when he championed a piece we always ran it...he was an absolutely charming man and a delightful colleague."

After leaving Ampleforth in 1957, James went up to Oxford and read Classics at Trinity College. He had a deep respect for, and love of, language. Writers did not fear or resent his editing pen, knowing that he would remove their infelicities without officiously rewriting their copy. He did not panic under deadline pressure and soon mastered the computer technology when it replaced hot metal in the 1980s. It is said that at the Sunday Telegraph he devised a programme, operated by a 'Doomsday Key,' that would strip all finished copy from the next day's newspaper.

Family, friends and colleagues delighted in James' wit and his word perfect literary quotations, and were entertained by his spontaneous humorous verse and limericks. He loved good music, classical for the most part, but jazz, too. He and his wife Carole, a former Telegraph journalist, went every year to Glyndebourne.

He was also a dab-hand at table tennis, scooping The Spectator championship and was also the Sunday Telegraph snooker champion. After retiring to the North Norfolk coast, where he and his wife had had a house for many years, he continued to play snooker at the Wells War Memorial Institute Club and loved long coastal walks with the couple's three dogs. He also enjoyed dinners at the long table back in London's Garrick Club.

James is survived by Carole, his three children - Oliver, Toby and Leonora - and six grandchildren - William, Edward, Joey, Natasha, Isabella and Sonny.

**SIMON THOMAS LEONARD (B57) 29th December 1939 - 15th September 2016**, Peter to his family and friends, due to the fact that his Grandfather decided there were already too many Simons in the family, died peacefully at his home having been diagnosed with a brain tumour at Easter.

Father of Joseph (W88), Christopher (J89), Robert (T90), Michael (W94), Nicholas (O01), Matthew (O05) and James (W06). He was the brother of Patrick (B51) and John (B53).

After leaving Ampleforth he completed a year at Agricultural College in Aberdeen before returning to run the family farm in Co Meath. From the start he was an innovative farmer, as his Father had been before him, and was always interested in the latest advances in such things as silage pits, animal housing and milking parlours, but always refusing, particularly when money was scarce, to invest large capital sums in things he could equally well construct himself. This carried forward to much more recently when a new family venture was to turn some outlying land into a golf course, to which end he and two of his sons acquired two second-hand digging machines and set to work. The result is an 18-hole course of a challenging disposition and spectacular views.

Having married Clare Weld in 1967 he became the proud father of their nine children and the family were delighted when, at the end of a 26-year parental career at Ampleforth the Headmaster, Fr Gabriel, gave a dinner in their honour. The whole family, including non-OAs Laura and Richard, attended, some with their wives and girlfriends and it was attended by not only two headmasters but also by several of the boys' housemasters too.

Though a quiet and gentle man he was an efficient farmer and doubled the land he farmed during his tenure. He started a dairy early in his married life and expanded it steadily so that by the time he retired he would have ranked among the larger dairy farmers in the country - a position being ably continued by his sons Joseph and Matthew. That he was held in high esteem by his neighbours, fellow farmers and many others was demonstrated by the very large attendance at his funeral.

**DOUGLAS JOHN DE LAVISON (O50) 31st October 1931 - 21st September 2016**. The following is taken from text kindly provided by Douglas' family.

Douglas was born in Cairo into a cosmopolitan family of French, English and Scottish extraction. Before his father became British, his family had lived in the

Middle East for four generations as naturalised Russians. In 1936 his father's work with RAF Intelligence necessitated a move to Palestine.

Fast forward to 1940, and so it was from Palestine that Douglas, with his mother and sister, flew back to the UK in early June on the last Empire Air flying boat, just before the Italians' entry into the war made a trip across the Med a trying exercise.

Douglas went to school at Gilling Castle before joining Ampleforth College. It was at Ampleforth that he developed his taste in music, notably playing the Grieg Piano Concerto with the school orchestra, while academically specialising in the Classics. After school, he did National Service with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars. He then went up to Oxford where he switched from his intended Classics to Modern Languages.

After Oxford, he joined EMI, more because of his love of music than because he had any idea about what he wanted to do. In their wisdom, EMI promptly moved their 'best and brightest' away from music and into their newly formed computer division. He spent the next 20 years with various computer companies. Douglas' section of EMI moved to ICT, which was merged to become ICL, which eventually moved its office to the defunct Beaumont College, where his father had been at school.

Shortly after marrying, Douglas moved to Manchester and joined English Sewing Cotton; following that, he became a consultant with PA which led to a lot of working away from home. It was during this time that Douglas was given Roger, the unassuming golf ball-sized cactus that he nurtured over 40 years into the wizened monster that many will have seen lurking in his window overlooking Broad Street.

In 1975 he was head-hunted by a good friend, and after interviewing successfully, was informed that he now worked for the Security Service. That's MI5. He started by running his departmental computer, and then switched to running agents. He eventually tired of the politicking in the office and decided that now was time for something completely different. He had always displayed practical talents, and was able to repair and restore almost anything, so he did a year's course in antique furniture restoration and loved it. He kitted out a workshop in the shed at the end of his garden and went into business for himself.

Douglas had a heart attack in 2003, a stroke in 2004 and was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2005, although the disease had probably started to affect him in the 1990s. Parkinson's affected everything; his cognition, his memory, his mobility, and his concentration.



After a series of falls he went into Brendoncare in November 2013, then to St Cross Grange, and following another stroke, back to Brendon. During this time he insisted on having his computer and his tools: he thought his bed needed re-engineering, the table was wobbly, and his wheelchair was just plain wrong. Unfortunately his enthusiasm for taking things apart to mend or improve persisted long after he'd lost the ability to put them back together again.

Douglas was extremely intelligent, with a great, sometimes wickedly left-field sense of humour. He loved parties and socialising, and enjoyed meeting people on his walks with the dogs. His family was what was most important to him, but wherever he was he made friends.

**BENEDICT WILLIAM READ (W63) 26th March 1945 - 20th October 2016** was an art historian whose role in rehabilitating the status of Victorian sculpture is difficult to overestimate. He became the world's leading authority on the subject.

Ben was born in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, but grew up in the village of Stonegrave, North Yorkshire. He was the youngest son of the art theorist Herbert Read and the viola player Margaret Ludwig. After Ampleforth, Ben went on to study English Literature at Queen's College, Oxford although he was, in his own estimation, a poor student, preferring his own reading matter to that of the syllabus. Despite this, he gained a place to study art history at the Courtauld Institute and was later appointed Deputy Witt Librarian there. In 1990 he was made Director of Sculpture Studies at Leeds University, holding this post until his retirement in 2010. Ben's research interests were varied, but his speciality was always Victorian sculpture. His key book on the subject was published by Yale in 1982 and has remained an important text ever since. In 1991 he co-organised, with Joanna Barnes, the groundbreaking exhibition Pre-Raphaelite Sculpture at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and he advised on restoration programmes at the Palace of Westminster, the Albert Memorial and Salisbury Cathedral. It was this work, together with his teaching career, that helped establish the legitimacy of Victorian sculpture studies within the art history world.

He was keenly sought after to serve on committees, ranging from the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association to the Leeds Diocesan committee on historic churches, and the Leeds Art Fund. On these, his knowledge, good humour and methodical approach were warmly welcomed.

He is survived by his brother, Piers Paul, and sister, Sophie.

**CHARLES CHRISTOPHER MILES (T51) 17th January 1933 - 31st October 2016** was born in 1933 in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) where his father was a member

of the Ceylon Civil Service. Always Christopher in the family, he was Chris to his friends.

The family returned to England when he was two, and settled down in the Chiltern village of Aldbury. Perhaps the happiest time of Christopher's life was when, at the age of about ten, he explored the woods and fields for rare butterflies and wild flowers. There was a war on then, but it was still something of a surprise that he became an encyclopaedic expert at aircraft recognition.

After Gilling and Junior House he was one of the first in the new house of St Thomas's following his brothers John (D45) and Francis (D47, died 2000) and later to be followed by Oliver (D54). He did well at his Latin and Greek but he also won his school athletics colours running the half mile, nowadays 800 metres, won the Headmaster's Literary Prize, and played Beethoven at Exhibition.

After two years national service in the Royal Signals he went up to Worcester College Oxford as an Exhibitioner and State Scholar in 1953. Musically gifted and a good classical scholar, he unfortunately had a serious mental breakdown in his first term. He was treated at the Warneford hospital in Oxford with rigorous treatments, now outmoded, and remained on medication for the rest of his life.

He managed a second in Classical Mods, but was unable to complete his degree. After several years of illness he spent nine months in the Carmelite Priory at Aylesford in Kent and then was able to live an independent life and hold down a job first as a printer and then for nearly 30 years as a shipping clerk, becoming expert in the technicalities of international trade and teaching himself enough calculus to optimise package design.

A devout Catholic, he became the organist at his church in Berkhamsted and played there for more than 40 years. Always a bachelor, he was an active and well-loved member of his church community and is remembered by many friends there.

He made several trips to Lourdes as a brancardier, and after he retired worked as a volunteer gardener in the local hospice. He retained from Ampleforth and Oxford a lifelong love of language, music and argument. Although he did not fulfil the promise of his youth, he was always a very positive person who made the best of things, led a full and useful life and was never known to complain.

His funeral mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Berkhamsted included a recording of Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus sung by the church choir with Christopher at the organ. He will be sadly missed now that he has died of Parkinson's disease at the age of 83.

**PETER STEPHEN KEROPE KASSAPIAN (T58) 21st July 1940 - 1st November 2016** joined Gilling Castle in 1948, following his elder brothers Garry (T53, died 2011) and Ronald (T53). He entered St Thomas's House in 1954 from Junior House and left the school in 1956. The family were Armenian Catholics, dealing in fine wool in Bradford. A proud member of the then Lower Remove he was the most loyal of Old Amplefordians, strong in friendship, and loved telling stories against himself – most of them with a necessary embroidery. But he once showed me his smoking den, and I am assured by the family that he was never caught.

He joined his brothers at Kassapians. For some years all went well, and it was no disadvantage, as his father said, that 'everyone likes Peter.' But in the seventies, British textiles lost competitive edge, and cheaper, often inferior, imports came in. Kassapians diversified, and a hand knitting business made money. But in the end, the family sold up, and the great warehouse was sold.

Peter was often at Ampleforth, especially at Easter, with a group of friends, serving at the liturgy and meeting with Easter joy after the midnight Mass on Holy Saturday. But the most important change in his life was to meet Jean, widow of a gifted Chinese restaurateur. He wooed Jean by serving at her table and won her. They had a son, Jack, named after Jack Aldridge, a remarkable Ampleforth parent who had survived a Japanese POW camp. Jack is serving now in the RAF, and his first son David, is now a Brigadier, and served in the Royal Marines.

Sustained by Jean, Peter remained as generous, friendly and kind as ever. On the day of his death, he was preparing supper to await Jean's return; duty done, he sat down before the TV. He died with the remote control in his hand. For sure he is with the Lord. His many friends mourn Peter and pray for him: many came to his Requiem.

**JOHN HECTOR SCOTSON (A47) 24th May 1929 - 1st December 2016** was born in Manchester and joined Gilling in 1937 before heading to the College. On his first day at Gilling, when asked his name, he replied 'John Hector' and for the next 10 years he was often known and addressed by the teachers and boys by this name rather than the expected 'Scotson.' His memoirs include his confusion on day one by seeing an egg shaped ball being carried rather than kicked. After Ampleforth he was able to follow in his Father's and Grandfather's footsteps and apply to study at Manchester University Medical School. After National Service, University and residential hospital training he started as a GP in Timperley and remained in Cheshire until retirement in 2001. He was greatly respected by his patients and known for his kind, gentle, unhurried and calm approach. He served as Chairman on two regional medical committees and for 20 years helped train young doctors. He actively opposed calls for euthanasia, abortion, embryo experimentation and all other unethical medical procedures.

John's interests included reading, fell walking in the Lake District, photography and the shroud of Turin. On the sporting side he was the school Boxing Captain and later became a regular squash player. His memoirs make it clear that time at Ampleforth strengthened his love of the Church. A particular highlight was an invitation from his parish church to attend Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010 and afterwards he was presented to His Holiness. His strong Catholic faith influenced everything that he did and until the last few weeks of his life he attended daily Mass.

John was married for almost 60 years to his wife Sheila who also died of cancer a few weeks before him. He is greatly missed by his four children, eleven grandchildren, four great grandchildren, his three siblings and many friends and former patients. The funeral was held in his parish church of St Vincent de Paul in Altrincham.

**HUBERT OLIVER BOND (B47) 27th July 1929 - 5th December 2016**, known as Hugh, was born in Anderton, Lancashire, the sixth of eight children. At age seven, he was sent to a convent prep school in Boscombe where the Reverend Mother and two of the nuns were his aunts. At age 10, he started at Junior House following his three brothers David (B40, died 1968), Justin (B40, died 2005) and Phillip (B43, died 2011). At Ampleforth, he distinguished himself in the school shooting eight, winning the Anderson cup for .303 shooting in 1944. After a commission in the Royal Signals, he went onto Reading University where he completed a degree in Horticulture.

During his career, he combined a love of agriculture with adventure. From 1955 to 1970, he was a tea, coffee and cinchona planter with Brooke Bond in Kenya. During his first home leave in 1959, he and Tony Vigne (E49) drove across Africa from Kenya to Senegal in a Thames van. From 1971 to 1981, he moved to Zambia where he worked with UK overseas aid. Despite the restrictions caused by the Rhodesian war, he loved to travel all over the country visiting farms and agricultural projects. From 1982 to 1986 he worked for the EU in Uganda, at a time when the country was in the midst of a civil war. The job ended dramatically when he and his daughter Catherine, then just starting out as a war correspondent, escaped a battlefield through rebel lines in his Land Rover as shells flew overhead. Further exotic assignments with international agencies followed in Somalia, Denmark, Libya, Pakistan and Tanzania (where he was British Honorary Consul) until his retirement to a country farmhouse in north Cornwall in 1991.

He married Anne Pierrepont in Nairobi in 1960. They had three children; Catherine, Martin (B81) and Virginia, and six grandchildren. A strong shared Catholic faith was the cornerstone of their 52 year marriage. Due to a decline in Anne's health, they



moved to Dorchester in 2007. Hugh nursed her with love and absolute dedication until she died in 2012. He was intending to visit family in Zambia for Christmas when he died quite suddenly on 5th December 2016.

Hugh was moderate, loyal, kind and self-disciplined. He was dedicated to his family. He wrote poetry and loved discussing current affairs. However, his greatest passion and talent was always gardening, in which he constantly ran experiments and about which he could instantly provide simple, miraculous advice, even into old age.

**JAN DOMINIK POLONIECKI (H63) 26th May 1946 - 19th December 2016**

was the elder son of Bernard Poloniecki, who had escaped the German invasion of L'wow, Poland, in 1939 to fly bombers for the RAF, and Barbara Jill Hammersley, one of five daughters of the industrialist and MP, Samuel Hammersley. While first at Junior House and later at St Hugh's, Jan's nights at Ampleforth were spent an exhilarating bike ride away at the Polish House in Oswaldkirk, under the watchful but familial eyes of Colonel and Mrs Dudzinski.

It was while completing a PhD in Statistics at Sussex University that he met his wife Lucy (Hollis) who was reading Mathematics. Their happy marriage lasted 41 years. Inheriting her parents' gift, their daughter, Anna, read Mathematics at Bristol University.

Family, faith and scholarship were the predominant ingredients of Jan's life; closely followed by his love of skiing. The latter taking him not only to mountain resorts, but also, regardless of the season, on regular trips to artificial snow domes near his home in London.

No slave to authority, political correctness, or conventional wisdom, Jan regarded the pursuit of the facts and the truth to be *supra omnia*. This maxim may have curtailed an early spell in the private sector, when, finding himself travelling in the lift with the newly appointed, and conspicuously overpaid chief executive, he calculated, and pointed out, how much the short trip had cost the shareholders.

His unshakeable principles were to guide him to a hugely productive and influential career in the public health area, where he worked for 28 years at St George's Medical School and Hospital in Tooting as a Medical Statistician.

When he arrived at SGH in 1988, mortality data was virtually non-existent in hospitals, so little work could be done in establishing whether patient mortality for a particular hospital was exceptional or statistically normal. The mortality monitoring he established in 2002 and the statistical technique, which he developed, known as CRAM (cumulative risk adjusted mortality), are in nationwide use to this day.

Over the course of his career, Jan published 228 papers on statistical methods, databases, computing, ethics and law. He became a Governor of SGH in 2014 and was due to retire the week following his death, the timing of which prevented him receiving an Emeritus Reader award.

Freedom of speech was a subject close to Jan's heart. Disappointed by the response of the Western press, and at obvious risk to himself, he insisted on pinning the supposedly offending front page of Charlie Hebdo to the wall of his office. Later he commissioned a T-shirt on which was written 'Deus magnus est' together with its Arabic equivalent. These acts of courage brought him many unexpected supporters from a wide range of religious backgrounds and helped establish the man his mathematical colleagues referred to admiringly as 'the influential outlier.'

In both the Year of Faith (2012/3) and the Year of Mercy (2015/16) together with Patrick Carroll (E63), Jan travelled to Rome and Loreto. It amused him somewhat that in so doing, he had apparently obtained sufficient indulgences to free both himself and his parents from their limboic shackles. As his father had lived to the age of 100 and his mother until 93, he had little thought that his need might have come so swiftly. RIP.

**RALPH HENRY NEWMAN GILBEY (O42) 2nd March 1925 – 22nd December 2016.**

Upon leaving Ampleforth, Ralph attended Cambridge before joining the Regiment of the Light Dragoons in 1944. He saw service in the UK and through Normandy and North West Europe during World War 2. At the end of World War 2, Ralph ended up at the V2 Rocket Factory in Peenemunde in the Baltic. After the end of the hostilities in Europe, Ralph served in the Middle East with the Regiment finally finishing his service in 1946.

In 1948 Ralph married Barbara Scott and they had four children Thomas (C69), Francis (C71, died 2016), James (C75) and Helen. Barbara was a third cousin of the Gilbert Scott family, who built much of Ampleforth.

Ralph joined the family Wine Merchants, JR Parkingtons, an offshoot of W&A Gilbey. He successfully built this up over many years expanding the company to become one of the country's leading independent wine merchants. He became involved with the Shire Horse Society serving a two year period as President from 1975-77, continuing a long standing connection to the Gilbey family, which dates back to 1883 when Sir Walter Gilbey was President.

After Ralph retired from the family wine firm Ralph and Barbara moved to Somerset and involved themselves in running the small farm and gardening. He had a particular love of landscape. He was a very able sketcher and spent a great deal of

his time whilst in St Oswald's in the art room under Fr Sebastian. In his retirement he devoted himself to researching his family history.

**FRANCIS NEWMAN GILBEY (C71) 11th May 1953 - 29th December 2016.**

Brought up in the rolling landscape of North Essex, Frank developed a keen eye for landscape and this was realised in his exceptional ability to paint. Fieldgate Farm was situated at the end of a dead-end lane beyond which lay open countryside, covered in summer by fields of wheat and barley and in winter by brown plough and often populated by flocks of golden plover and lapwing. From this open-skied countryside he drew inspiration for his art.

He went to Junior House and then to St Cuthbert's under Fr Walter Maxwell Stuart. Academically able as he was, it was however in the art room under John Bunting (W44, died 2002) that his real talent was developed and he spent a great deal of time painting. This culminated in various prizes including the Herald Trophy and his painting hung in the big passage for a number of years. He also showed great ability with a rifle and shot for the Ampleforth Shooting team representing the school at Bisley in the Ashburton Cup.

On leaving he joined the family wine firm in Bond Street and travelled learning the trade in various vineyard regions of the world, including California and Australia. He arrived in Australia from the vineyards of South Africa on a cargo vessel into Freemantle Perth WA. He said it was the most tedious voyage and the only occupation was clay pigeon shooting off the stern of the ship.

On his return he decided to pursue his art and gained a place at Edinburgh Art College to study painting. He then moved into Glebe Cottage in Cucklington, close to the family farm where he painted. He began to suffer increasingly from severe psoriasis, which limited his movement. He went to the sun often, as he found that salt water and sunshine helped the condition and healed his skin. Unfortunately, he never managed to get control of it and it became a debilitating problem from which he continued to suffer gravely all his life.

When his mother died in 2000, Frank concentrated on helping his father, Ralph (O42). Apart from being father and son they were extremely close friends and this was a sustaining relationship in the face of considerable difficulties for them both. In recent years his father's health deteriorated and he came to depend more and more on the help and support of Frank.

Ralph had a final fall in December 2016 and it was Frank who found him collapsed on the floor and organised for him to be rushed to Yeovil hospital. He never recovered and died on the 22nd December 2016.

Frank found the stress of coping and then witnessing his father's rapid decline overpowering and led a week later to a massive brain stem stroke from which he never recovered and he too tragically died on the 29th December a week after his beloved father.

A loved Brother, Uncle and Godfather, his considered wisdom and good humour which he maintained throughout his life is very much missed by his family, friends and the many acquaintances he had in the village of Cucklington and beyond.

**ANTHONY COPLESTON WALSH (E67) 20th December 1948 - 7th January 2017**

was a dedicated and successful GP. In 1988 he moved from Telford, Shropshire, to Milton Keynes, where he started Walnut Tree Health Centre. He was excited by the opportunities offered by a new town, where patients were young and often from deprived backgrounds, with challenging needs.

One of the first GPs to own a mobile phone - a huge contraption with a separate portable battery - he continued to work as a GP until his early retirement due to ill health in 2010. He was also a founding member of the Shropshire arm of the medical campaign against nuclear weapons, speaking for it on local radio.

Tony was born in Malvern, Worcestershire, to an English mother, Brenda, and an Irish father, Phillip, an army colonel, and spent several years in Germany and Jordan as a child. He had an older brother, Christopher (E63), and younger sister, Katie.

After Ampleforth, where he was Head Monitor and Captain of the 1st XI cricket team, he went to Lincoln College, Oxford. He excelled academically and at sports, especially enjoying cricket and rugby.

At Oxford, he met his future wife Charlotte Jessop, with whom he had three children. Having graduated in modern history, he decided to take up medicine, and became president of the student union at Middlesex Medical School. He specialised in paediatrics before deciding to go into general practice, training in Leamington Spa and Stratford-upon-Avon, and taking his first job as a GP in Telford. Particularly interested in psychoanalysis, and in what motivates people to go to the doctor, he found that in a new town, without the support networks of established cities and towns, people relied on their GP for guidance, rather as they had formerly done with a priest. He was a founding member of Willen Cricket Club, where he won the batting award for most runs scored in 1990. He scored two centuries for them, including a famous 174 not out, which earned him the nickname Titanic Tony.

Always fit and active, he replaced cricket and rugby with tennis and cycling later in life, and was an active member of Stony Stratford Tennis Club. In 2005, with his son



Guy, he completed the London to Paris 360-mile cycle ride for Action Medical Research.

**ANTHONY LEONARD SHEIL (T50) 18th May 1932 - 10th January 2017** was son of Jerry, a soldier and Flora (Dorrie), a Canadian railroad heiress. They lived at Heyford Manor in Northamptonshire where they rode horses and hunted, and in 1935, they moved to Ireland after inheriting the Confey Stud in County Dublin, which had produced winners of the Grand National, Derby Stakes and the 2,000 Guineas.

After four years training racehorses Jerry Sheil was recalled to the British Army at the start of the Second World War. Aged seven, Anthony waved goodbye to his father who went to fight in Egypt, Italy, France and Germany. They never saw each other again. In the last days of the war Brigadier Sheil drove over a mine and was killed instantly. Aged nearly 13 Sheil made an entry in his diary, which belied his profound distress: "Daddy killed in action. Went out and played cricket in the nets." The truth of the incident was not revealed to him until the end of his life when he came across a German journalist's report of that fateful day in May 1945. It was recorded that Brigadier Sheil, having seen his driver fall asleep at the wheel, had offered to take over. Minutes later he drove over the mine that killed him while the sleeping driver survived the explosion.

Whilst at Ampleforth, Anthony started running a book. One of his teachers, listening to some drinkers in the local pub discussing the odds of the upcoming Grand National, overheard the barman saying: "The best odds you'll get are from Anthony Sheil up at the College." Rustication followed but did nothing to dampen his fascination.

After National Service, Sheil went up to Christ Church, Oxford, to read Greats before studying for the Bar and with a fellow student, James Kinross, began reading manuscripts for pin money. It occurred to them that reading and placing manuscripts with publishers was more fun than the Bar and in 1962 they set up a literary agency in Grafton Street. Their first authors were military writers and historians to whom Sheil was drawn by his father's army career. His first fiction writer was John Fowles whose novels *The Magus* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman* were the big literary books of the late 1960s and 1970s. He moved the agency to Doughty Street, absorbing two others on the way, which netted him representation of the bestselling romance novelist Catherine Cookson.

In 1974 he set up a New York agency with his old friend Gillon Aitken and in 1986 he created a foreign rights agency with Paul Marsh. By the early 1990s he had teamed up with Sonia Land. In the process he represented outstanding writers such

as Paddy Leigh Fermor, who combined everything he admired in a man: military endeavour, an earthy erudition and a love of Greece. In 1984 Sheil bought a house on the island of Andros to which he would retreat to take marathon walks and swims. After a long bout of success there came a period of reckoning in the 1990s. Only the sudden deaths of his father and later, in 1974, his sister, Denyse, could have given him the character to suffer with great stoicism the breakdown of his first marriage, the loss of his agency, a cancer operation, and the move from his London home.

The reward for withstanding these hard times came towards the end of the millennium. In 1997 he married Annette Worsley-Taylor, who for many years was the driving force behind London Fashion Week, and together they embarked on a very happy 18 years together until she died suddenly in 2015. Sheil joined Aitken Alexander as an associate agent and brought some of his writers with him. He was still doing big deals at the age of 83.

**NICHOLAS MARK PARSONS (D81) 10th October 1962 - 16th January 2017** was the second son of the distinguished diplomat, Sir Richard Parsons and his wife Jennifer. Born in 1962, he came to Ampleforth when his father was ambassador in Budapest. He was an able boy, who did well and made friends among his contemporaries. Losing his mother, who died when his father was ambassador in Madrid and he was still in the school, was devastating for him as for his two brothers Julian (D80) and Tim (D84). In spite of quite a febrile temperament, he found enough resilience to hold his own. His interests were mainly intellectual and he took A Levels at good grades. Leaving Ampleforth in 1981, he was at New College Oxford, a Scholar, reading History from 1982 to 1985. He became an expert in bonds and was in Hong Kong and in Thailand, working as a financial journalist from the mid-1980s until 1999 and again for some years until 2012. Often it seems he lived through doubt and uncertainty. Nick loved Bob Dylan and music. After his return to London in 2012, Nick was increasingly unwell, and was helped by friends. He was anointed with the Sacrament of the Sick on 13th January 2017 in St George's Hospital in Tooting and died there on 16th January 2017. His Requiem funeral Mass in St Thomas Catholic Church in Fulham was attended by about ten of his Ampleforth contemporaries and other friends and family, with much beautiful singing.

**PATRICK EVAN POOLE (A54) 23rd September 1935 - 4th February 2017** was the second of seven children of William and Lena Poole. His father was a general practitioner and Patrick was strongly influenced by him in his decision to study medicine. Patrick went to Ampleforth after his education at Gilling and Junior House. He excelled at Ampleforth both academically and in sports. He captained the First XV rugby team and was an exceptional long jumper. Following Ampleforth he went up to Trinity College Cambridge to study medicine. After completing his

studies he decided to take a sabbatical from medicine, having been accepted for further training at St Mary's Hospital in London.

He did his national service with the Cheshire Regiment, which involved a tour of duty in Singapore. This experience left a deep impression on him and especially with respect to the other members of his platoon and their unique sense of humour and loyalty to one another. It also fostered in him a great interest in military history.

Patrick met his Italian wife Igina Ghitti who was studying English in Ramsgate. They married in Italy where they lived for some time before moving to Africa (Kenya and Uganda) where Patrick worked for the British High Commission. It was during this time that Patrick met a visiting professor of anatomy from the University of Galveston in Texas who invited him to continue his medical studies there. Following graduation, he interned in El Paso following which he went into general practice in Houston. In pursuit of his final choice of a career, he worked in Long Island New York for a few years before entering the US Air Force as a medical officer. It seems that the condition of his enrolment was that he be stationed in Cambridgeshire. He was stationed in Alconbury Air Force Base and he lived in Holywell. Upon his return to the USA he again went into general practice in Florida for some time before finally settling in Stony Brook on Long Island New York. He decided to specialise in Neurology at the University of New York in Stony Brook and practised there for the rest of his career. He loved to teach and was often voted as the best teacher by his residents.

Patrick never lost sight of his formative years at Ampleforth which ingrained in him his deep Catholic faith. He was undeterred by the growing slide of the western world into secular humanism, which if anything strengthened his faith. At the same time he enjoyed life to the full and was always great fun to be with. He had a sharp intellect yet preferred to fall back on his sense of humour in conversation. He never really signed on to the sway of the computer age and regarded the internet, cellular phones and answer phones as inconvenient intrusions. Consequently he rarely resorted to them.

His main focuses in life were his religion, his family and his profession. He is survived by his wife Igina, his three sons Sean, Hubert and Paul, and seven grandchildren.

Patrick's health started to deteriorate in the middle of 2016. Although the reasons for this were not well understood, it was possibly due to complications of Lyme disease (prevalent in Long Island), which he contracted as early as 2014. After several months it was clear that he wouldn't return to his former good health and on 4th February 2017 he passed away suddenly and peacefully. During the summer,

after a simple ceremony conducted by his parish priest, his ashes were dispersed into the waters off the northern shore of Long Island Sound in Stony Brook, a place adored by Patrick and his family.

**SAMUEL CHARLES THOMASSON (W74) 27th July 1956 - 9th February 2017** was born in July 1956 to Kit (C49, died 2011) and Bryony Thomasson. At the time the family lived in London but later moved to Dallinghoo in Suffolk. After Kit retired from the city to become a farmer, they moved to Nottinghamshire and then to Somerton Castle, in Lincolnshire.

Sam's schooling started at Moreton Hall in Bury St Edmunds and then he moved on to St Wilfrid's House at Ampleforth. It is safe to say that academic prowess was not his strong point but Ampleforth provided many opportunities for Sam to flourish in other areas. He was reputed to have had the distinction of being school shot put champion and also played in the second row on the rugby field.

He had frequent brushes with authority whilst pushing the boundaries. On one occasion when a spell at home from school loomed, his father refused to have him back, declaring that this would simply be treated as an opportunity for a holiday and some not so well earned rest.

One escapade involved telling his parents that a friend from Ampleforth had invited him on a skiing holiday. The friend reported the same tale to his parents and so off they went on a winter break, unhindered by having adults authority in tow. No harm resulted, but this would not be recommended today!

After A Levels, Sam went to work for Mitsui, the Japanese trading company, with a four year spell in Australia. He had a varied career and his final years were spent running a successful business importing marble and granite for refurbishing buildings.

His interests included fishing and shooting, and he was frequently found at the covert side with a succession of gundogs of varying degrees of obedience. Success in fishing was varied, with a monthly visit to the Wye in recent years yielding happy days but not necessarily many salmon falling to his rod.

He was also very much into vintage and classic cars. This included racing an Alpine Renault in the Historic Racing Car series, with varying degrees of success. He was known to race his father's 1929 Alfa Romeo 6c 1750 at local circuits such as Cadwell Park. A long period rebuilding the other family vintage car, a 1931 Alfa Romeo 8c 2300 gave considerable personal satisfaction. He later took this to VSCC events in the UK and the Le Mans Classic. He also ran it in the classic Mille Miglia with Colin



Poole. The event was taken in relatively leisurely fashion. They completed the race successfully, without the benefit of a backup crew and taking only what would fit in the car.

Sam married Virginia in 1987 and they had three children; Jack, Laurie and Cicely. He died in February 2017 and will be sorely missed by an extended family and a wide range of friends, mainly for his strength of character, a sense of humour which was often coloured with a sense of mischief and the old school characteristics of a gentleman.

**TIMOTHY SIMON GREY (H61) 3rd October 1943 - 15th February 2017.** “The glee and zest for life has characterised my whole existence.” These words of Tim were lived out throughout his adventurous life, even from the time he was taken off to Rio de Janeiro in a cradle on a Merchant Vessel being chased by enemy submarines in late 1943.

This glee and zest for life got Tim in quite a bit of mischievous trouble both at Avisford Prep School and then at Ampleforth, but his charming forceful character and gift for passionate persuasion got him out of all sorts of scrapes both then and in future life, when he sailed perilously close to the wind. His stories of adventure, such as the time when he got lost in the Atlas Mountains and drove his car over a cliff, were riveting though his audience were not always sure how far he embellished his story to capture their imagination.

Tim’s early childhood followed his diplomat father’s postings to Rio de Janeiro 1943-46, The Hague 1946-48, Lisbon 1948-51 and Moscow 1952-54 and may explain Tim’s zest for life-enhancing travel, even though he was torn between mischievous adventure and an inner spiritual and reflective side of his character. The latter is evidenced by Tim after his schooling when he briefly joined the Monasteries of Parkminster Charterhouse and Caldey Island and in 1962 the Boys Republic near Rome, which he wrote about in the Ampleforth Journal of February 1963.

Further travel took Tim around Europe and Africa, meeting his future wife Anne-Marie in Algeria and marrying her in 1968. They settled in Morocco where their two children Christine and Mylene were born. After his wife’s death he married in 2008 Cecile Van Der Eijden. She brought great joy to Tim throughout the last years of his life.

Tim’s colourful personality and big heart touched the lives of so many. He threw himself into whatever he did with great zest demonstrating his love for life including exercising his talents in goat farming and selling his cheeses in the local market, beekeeping, woodwork, photography, horticulture and newspaper reporting.

In the evening of his life Tim helped his wife look after foster children in their home with his usual bigheartedness, which never left him. The priest conducting his funeral said, ‘Tim has just presented himself at Heaven’s door and the Father all powerful in love, must have welcomed him with open arms, saying to him, “What you did to the least among us, you did for me. Enter into the joys of Paradise.”’ May he rest in peace and in the eternal embrace of God.

**NIALL PATRICK JOHN MURNANE (O47) 18th JULY 1929 - 14th FEBRUARY 2017.** During Niall’s time at Ampleforth, he was living with Mrs Magda Whyte in Ireland due to his father being a prisoner of war during the 2nd World War, in Changi prison in Singapore and the rest of the family were left in Australia where they all were on holiday at the time. Unfortunately, his father went back to Singapore where he was the Municipal Water Engineer as he had heard that the Japanese had over run the Malayan peninsular and it was then that he was caught by the Japanese. Niall was then parted from his family and sent to be looked after by Magda during his holidays until he joined his parents in Cape Town where his father and mother were recuperating after his father's long sojourn in Changi. A few of his holidays were spent at Ampleforth so the school paid a large part in his upbringing and paved his way in life.

He had such special memories of his time at Ampleforth and often told the story about how the boys enjoyed fire drill sliding down the escape hatch pole to the floor below. Also, how he used to hear the monks chanting in the chapel, which was located below his room. In his senior year, he was a monitor of St Oswald’s House. Following his time at Ampleforth he joined his parents in Cape Town, South Africa where they had retired after the 2nd World War. In Cape Town, he attended the Witwatersrand University obtaining a BA and LLB. On leaving university he joined a law firm to do his articles extending his degree to include conveyancing. He then moved to Rhodesia and joined a law firm in Salisbury converting his degree to be compatible with the Rhodesian requirements.

In 1961, he married Joan Partridge who came from a large Rhodesian pioneer family. Soon after they were married they moved to Umtali, which was a fairly small city near the Mozambique border to join a law firm as a partner. He found the work very interesting and a good place to bring up his three daughters, but rather dangerous during the bush war. In 1980, he took his family back to Salisbury, which later became Harare, and joined government to become the Deputy State Attorney. He enjoyed this work as it enabled him to travel to different African countries as well as New York on government business.

**RICHARD ADAM HUNTER GORDON (C72) 23 July 1955 - 19 February 2017** was a thoughtful, kind and generous man. He was the fifth of six children of Major

Pat Hunter Gordon CBE, MC and Valerie (née de Ferranti), who invented the disposable nappy and who died in October 2016 aged 94 only four months before him.

Richard grew up in Inverness and retained his highland roots throughout his life including a love of reeling. He went to Junior House before joining St Cuthbert's where two of his brothers, Nigel (C65) and Kit (C75) also went. At Ampleforth Richard avoided most sport if he could and followed an intellectual calling particularly in the debating society and co-founding the Ampleforth Bookshop.

After a gap year, which led him across Europe ending up in a kibbutz in Israel, he read philosophy at Reading University. He funded his vacations working on oil platforms on the West of Scotland and here discovered his ability to relate to anyone, anywhere.

On the tragic death of his father in a car crash in March 1978, Richard, with characteristic bravery, moved home and took on his father's political mantle, standing in his place as the Conservative candidate for Inverness in the 1979 election. He campaigned valiantly and somewhat idiosyncratically, coming very close to winning the seat. He had a great sense of fun but also conviction, always campaigning in his kilt, which at his public meetings was much appreciated by his older female voters.

After qualifying as a chartered accountant and working for leading firms in Edinburgh and London, Richard followed his life-long interest in investment and worked in fund management for Schroders, first in London and then Singapore. Later he moved to Hong Kong becoming a director at Wardley, the merchant banking subsidiary of HSBC. Here he met Frances Scott, whom he returned to the UK to marry in 1991. They went on to have 25 happy years together raising a family of Zoe, Max, Joanna and Phoebe in central London. He was a true family man with his love and support extending wide; as one niece said, "You made your home my home."

In London Richard continued to pursue a successful career in investment management, first at Saunderson House then BestInvest. At the time of his death he was a director of BestInvest, providing financial advice and planning to hundreds of clients. He was well liked by both colleagues and clients and letters refer to the wonderful support he was to many, his quiet sense of humour, self-deprecating manner and kindness in explaining complicated financial concepts, endearingly describing him as 'a real human being.'

This modest and unassuming generosity and intelligence were his hallmarks. He was truly individual, as one friend said "he marched to his own step in his own

determined direction." He would always challenge scientific knowledge, political thinking and everyday attitudes and was genuinely curious and curiously genuine.

In January 2017 without warning Richard fell gravely ill with a bone marrow malignancy, which meant that a bout of flu turned into sepsis with many ensuing complications, which finally led to a fatal brain haemorrhage. He is deeply missed by all his wide family and many friends.

**CHARLES NICHOLAS PERRY (C53) 30th May 1935 - 19th March 2017**, known as Nick, was born in Worcestershire, eldest of three sons - Tim (C56) and Gordon (C60). He was privately educated before going to Seafeld Prep School, Sussex in 1944 when he was promptly evacuated to the relative safety of the Two Bridges Hotel, Devon for the rest of the war. Returning to Seafeld in 1946, Nick started his life-long passion for sport shining in the hurdles, high jump, long jump and cricket - all sports he continued to enjoy with success at Ampleforth, especially cricket as a batsman/wicket-keeper when he joined St Cuthbert's in 1949. He played squash, fished, beagled and was a good shot, all no doubt nurtured by Fr Sebastian Lambert and Fr Martin Haigh with whom he shared a lifelong friendship. He was a school monitor and always took his studies very seriously, making notes in perfect calligraphic handwriting encouraged by Fr Patrick Barry. He was offered a place at Clare College, Cambridge (his father's college and later his brother Tim's) before a National Service commission with the Coldstream Guards serving in Germany and Pirbright. He declined his place at Cambridge in favour of a career with IBM which lasted 32 years, starting in Newcastle, then Manchester, with spells in Paris, London and finally Portsmouth. In those years, Nick continued to play cricket with the OACC, the Emeriti and the Periwinkles (a side founded by his brother Tim), and never missed an opportunity to pursue his other passions - history, archaeology and fishing.

He married Caroline in 1959; they had three children, Jane, Edward (C80) and Jonathan (C84), and were delighted when the next generation Tilly (M16) and Eleanor (M) joined Ampleforth, providing Nick with the opportunity to revisit the Valley, walk the boundary rope of the cricket pitch and to meet his many Old Amplefordian friends and monks with whom he continuously corresponded. His passions and achievements were great examples to his children and grandchildren, with Jonathan winning a Cambridge Blue at cricket, and Edward and two grandchildren, George and Hugo, joining the Coldstream Guards.

In 1982, Nick and Caroline settled in Hampshire. He retired from IBM in 1989 only to suffer from oesophagus cancer four years later from which he recovered after surgery, but which left him weakened and vulnerable to winter illnesses but never downhearted. He continued to fish, travel, to write poetry, enjoy his books and



garden, to have an opinion on every aspect of life, politics and sport and to be the cornerstone of the family. Dependable, efficient, humorous, involved and loyal, he was always gracious and welcoming.

Nick's Catholic faith was personal, strong, steadfast, genuine, unambiguous and incredibly important to him; as was Ampleforth; as was his son Jonathan's commitment to the Manquehue Movement in Chile. He died peacefully at home after a long and often painful illness, nursed compassionately by Caroline, surrounded by his family and still in possession of the attractive quality of genuine humility born of his deep faith.

**PETER MARY EDWARD DRURY (W51) 24th September 1932 - 5th April 2017** was born in Dublin. He came to the Junior House in 1942 and then moved up to St Wilfrid's House, where he enjoyed cricket and knew the best scores of all the Old Boys. During his time in St Wilfrid's he was well known for two things – his extremely well-informed enthusiasm for cricket (Fr Dominic once encountered him seated on the top of a mountain in Spain reading Wisden), and for his invariable good nature and his reluctance to say an unkind word to or about anybody. These qualities remained evident throughout his life.

He read medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge and then moved to Guy's Hospital for his clinical training. He began anaesthetics at South Mead hospital in Bristol, although he was interrupted by National Service spent mostly at Catterick Camp, North Yorkshire. In 1961 he married Veronica Drury.

A course run by an Old Amplefordian professor, Cecil Gray (A31, died 2008), to support anaesthetists in gaining their fellowships brought him to Liverpool. He was made a Consultant Anaesthetist in 1965. He did pioneering work in the development of intensive care, writing 'A Guide to the Intensive Care Unit' with a colleague, Dr Ronnie Finn. Peter was the second anaesthetist to be President of the Liverpool Medical Institution (the first being Cecil Gray himself).

A devoted music lover, he joined the Liverpool Philharmonic Choir and was a member for 25 years. He played the piano all his life and learnt to play the organ, providing music for weekly mass, novenas and weddings. When he retired in 1997 he took up the double bass.

He had a great love for the Lake District. He frequently persuaded his four children to join him on long walks and organised fell walking trips for the porters, doctors and nurses of the Intensive Care Unit. He made his best cricket score in a match between consultants and junior staff where he acted as wicketkeeper. His deep faith sustained him throughout his life.

**HENRY ROGER TEMPEST (OA37) 2nd April 1924 - 6th May 2017** was the 31st generation of his family to live on the land they hold in North Yorkshire; latterly Broughton Hall, the 97-room stately home that in 1970 Tempest gallantly took on and revived from near ruin.

As a younger son, Henry Tempest had not expected to inherit any of this. He was born in London in 1924, the last of three children. His father, Brigadier General Roger Tempest, had been appointed DSO and CMG in the Great War, but his experiences had left him deaf and he was a distant figure to his children. His mother Valerie (née Glover) had been a great beauty in London. Country life was alien to her. Henry's contact with her was largely restricted to being presented for inspection before bed. Although there were 22 indoor servants to attend to the family's wants, for much of the time he led a semi-feral existence wandering the estate with dogs and ponies.

Following Ampleforth, Henry read Mathematics and Physics at Christ Church, Oxford. But in 1943, he was called up and commissioned into the Scots Guards. On his 21st birthday, having crossed the Rhine with his company - hardened Glaswegians and Geordie miners - he received a head wound during fierce fighting. He insisted that his wounded men be put into an ambulance while he waited for another. His courtesy saved his life; the vehicle was destroyed by a landmine.

His father died in 1948 and Henry's brother, Stephen (C31), inherited Broughton. Henry then endured a glum time as a salesman before seeking adventure in Northern Rhodesia. He built a house on a tract of bush and worked as an accountant in Lusaka, where his clients included Robert Mugabe.

Whilst in Rhodesia, he met Janet Longton and they married in 1957. They moved back to England and lived with an aunt in Oxfordshire. Later, she gave Henry a plot of land where he again built his own house. There his children enjoyed a blissful upbringing, although their au pairs, postmen and the local sheep came to fear their Rhodesian Ridgeback dog!

Henry's persistence got him the position of Bursar in the Department of Nuclear Physics at Oxford University. Encountering in the early 1960s some of the earliest computers, he taught himself to write programmes in one of its first languages, Fortran. He claimed to dream in numbers and created a highly effective accounting system for the department.

In 1970, Stephen died unmarried and Henry inherited Broughton, which was in dire repair. Its finances had been mishandled, its income had been depleted by the fall in agricultural rents and there were huge debts to pay. The house had a leaking roof

and dry rot. Death duties were punitive and many thought Henry should sell up. Henry vowed to save Broughton for future generations. Assets were sold, debts restructured and farms reorganised. For a time, holes in the roof were plugged with blu-tack.

Rather than persist with agriculture, Tempest saw the potential of the buildings from the time when the estate had been self-sufficient with its own gasworks, brewery, home farm and a water mill. Eventually, his son Roger (C81), who now runs Broughton, converted many of these into offices creating a business park for dozens of companies, which has since acted as a model for others.

With the estate back on an even keel, Henry became active in local affairs. He was a founding member of the North Yorkshire County Council, a Deputy Lieutenant and a Governor of Skipton Grammar School, which he helped to prevent from going comprehensive.

Henry was not a conventional public figure, preferring to follow logic of his own. He was obsessed with finding a rumoured cache of buried arms and church plate and spent much time digging for this, both inside and outside the house.

A Knight of Malta for more than 65 years, Henry's other great enthusiasms were horses and cars. Known for his champagne cocktails spiced with brandy, he celebrated his 80th birthday by opening a bottle atop the hill he had just climbed and marked his 90th by sliding down the bannisters at Broughton.

**MICHAEL JAMES FREDERICK WELD (O45) 20th July 1927 - 9th May 2017.** Michael's brother, Anthony (O42), writes: My greatest and happiest associations with Michael come in two parts – childhood and old age. During our working lives our ways did not cross very often, Michael going his way and I going mine, but this was well made up for in our childhood and in our dotage.

I am told that, as a two year old child, on the birth of Michael, I stood at the garden gate and announced to any passer-by that I had a baby brother and his name was Michael James: no doubt this practice was not allowed to continue.

I do remember however, that in 1931 Michael and I were taken to Chile for about a year when our father was attached to the Chilean Navy and Michael watched with glee as I was violently seasick while he enjoyed the passage across the Atlantic; I have sometimes felt in later life that those were our best days together when we were two little boys. He had a very generous nature and I remember on one occasion I had some sweets and on offering him one, Michael's reply was; "only if you have one to spare."

Michael's school life was spent as was mine at Avisford and then at Ampleforth and I well remember the joy I had when Avisford school was evacuated to Ampleforth during the early part of the war, as being near Tangmere airfield was not considered a very safe location. Although the two schools were not intertwined it was wonderful to have Michael so near.

However, life goes on and sadly our associations thereafter tended to diminish as we both set out on our different ways into the world. Michael joined the Navy but as he was diagnosed with colour blindness, he joined the paymaster branch where he served with distinction, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

On his retirement, Michael made his home in Sussex and we found we were near enough to each other to be able to resume our childhood days when we were both widowed about the same time and we would regularly meet for lunch perhaps half way between our two homes.

Sadly these happy reunions were cut short because Michael was moved into a home where he could have 24 hour care, but he was within striking distance of me so I was able to visit him and I felt we were reliving the days when we were two little boys.

My sisters and I feel a great loss now Michael has left this world, but we are happy that he is now at peace. God bless you Michael.

**PETER ANTHONY SLATTERY (D44) 21st March 1926 - 10th May 2017** was the eldest son of Rear Admiral Sir Matthew and Lady Mica Slattery. He was a diligent and hardworking boy at Ampleforth, and athletic enough to serve as Master of Hounds in 1943. He was a house and then school monitor. His experience of Ampleforth led him to enter the Dominican seminary at Hawkesyard Priory in Staffordshire to study philosophy and theology and prepare for a life in the priesthood. He never took his final vows however, but the four years he spent there influenced his life greatly from then on. He continued to be actively involved in the Catholic Church, for the rest of his life and his faith remained strong.

Peter was called to the Bar (Middle Temple) in 1957, but instead of practising as a barrister he made a shift into insurance services. He joined The Northern Assurance Company, moved to Hobbs Savill and Bradford where he became Managing Director, and was then invited to set up the Life Assurance Department at Williams and Glyn's Bank, which became part of RBS, a bank at which coincidentally his father and grandfather had served as directors. His final career move was to become General Manager of the Marine and General Mutual Life Assurance Society in Worthing. He wrote and lectured regularly on pensions.



In retirement he became a lay spiritual director, having trained in this at Worth Abbey in Sussex. Many people valued his guidance over the years, and he found great fulfillment in this work. He regularly carried communion from his parish church to the Catholic residents of Walton Heath Manor, the retirement home where he eventually resided.

When not working he was to be found tending his vegetable garden or pursuing his hobby of photography. In retirement he travelled widely, not least to visit his daughters in France and Ireland.

Peter's last few years were less active as he slowly developed Alzheimer's disease. Typically self-determined he made his own plans to move into a retirement home, to move once again closer to family for his final three years. He is survived by his brother David (D47), sister Micaëla, son Adrian (B72), daughters Micaëla and Philippa, eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

**HAROLD THOMPSON (A53) 25th August 1935 - 16th May 2017** was an Ampleforth man through and through. His love and respect of the place was quiet but immense. Born in 1935 into a farming family in the North East of England, he did not attend the prep school, which was not yet established, but made sure it was an experience his two sons did not miss out on.

Harold's years at Ampleforth may sometimes have left his teachers in quiet despair: one of his claims to fame was his prime placing on the leaderboard for the number of disciplines received each week. But although his sense of humour was not always appreciated (a favourite story of his school days was placing 'out of order' signs on all the boys' lavatories one Sunday morning, and watching with relish the chaos that ensued), his heart was gold and there was never malice in it. The lessons he learned from his school days were not always the ones the monks intended, but they grounded him for life. And he enjoyed his two sons' time at Ampleforth almost as much as his own, taking great pride in John (D89) and David's (D92) school projects and their sporting achievements, attending their cricket and rugby matches with his customary enthusiasm even though he had never bothered to learn the rules of either sport in his youth.

Harold left Ampleforth to attend Agricultural College: he had always wanted to follow in his father's footsteps as a farmer. He was well known and much loved in the farming and hunting communities around his home in County Durham, and his large funeral, attended by a range of friends and family from many walks of life, was a testament to his warm heart and good humour. He approached life with a positive attitude and much enthusiasm and even in his more frail years, his love of people and of his precious countryside remained solid to him.

He married his wife Jane in 1964 and they had four children together. When Jane died after a stroke in 2014, it left a huge hole in his life, but he faced it with his customary dignity and integrity and earned the huge respect of his family for the quiet bravery with which he faced his loss. He died after an intense illness in May 2017, but retained his ability to make people smile through every turn of his last days.

He was quietly a Catholic all his life, and took great comfort from the Church in his later years. It would have both amused and honoured him to know that the monks at Ampleforth had prayed for him in his final days. He rests at peace now, back beside the woman he loved in the Woodland Burial Site established by his eldest son, surrounded by the woodland he planted himself on land that he also loved and cared for. He touched the hearts of many with his warmth and kindness and good humour, and is greatly missed by those who knew him.

**JOHN ANTHONY BIANCHI (D53) 21st June 1934 - 7th July 2017**, always known as Tony, was born in Macclesfield, the older son of John and Irene Bianchi. Tony was the elder brother of Paul (D55) and the father of Robert (D88) and Nicholas (D90).

Following Ampleforth, Tony was in the Royal Navy for his National Service. For over 50 years, he worked with the furniture business Arighi Bianchi in Macclesfield. This iconic firm was founded in 1854 by the Bianchi and Arighi families, and is now in the fifth family generation at the firm. Both families came from the same small village called Casnate near Lake Como in Italy to Macclesfield. When Tony joined Arighi Bianchi, his father John was still Chairman and remained so until his death in 1992, aged 92. After this, Tony and Paul became joint Managing Directors and the company saw a period of growth and prosperity.

In 1973, Tony and Paul fought successfully to overturn plans of compulsory purchase of the Arighi Bianchi premises around the re-routing of the North-South Macclesfield ring road. With support from the poet Sir John Betjeman and many others, the Order was withdrawn and the building listed Grade 2 and preserved.

In 1975, Tony and Paul provided the furniture for the new retreat house, The Grange, at Ampleforth supporting Fr Kieran Corcoran (D49, died 1992).

In 1960, Tony married Pauline Higson and they had three sons, Richard (D79), John (D82) and William (D87), and eight grandchildren. Tony was a family man through and through. He lived in Prestbury and loved Macclesfield. He was very social, a big personality, generous, a good father, hardworking and a fantastic salesman. He did lots of cycling and walking, he loved horse racing, and was keen on bird watching

and fishing. He was a people person, always looking on the bright side of life and with time for people. At the nearby Wincle and Storm breweries, ales were named after him.

**RALPH JAMES DOWSON (O04) 31st January 1988 - 27th August 2017** was born in York on 31st January 1988, a birthday he shared with his brother Lawrence who was born on the same day three years later.

Early childhood was spent in Wombledon on the southern edge of the North York Moors and after three years at Helmsley Primary School the family moved to Denbigh in North Wales in 1996, returning to North Yorkshire in 1997 when Ralph joined Aysgarth School (1997-2001). Ralph loved boarding school and was never happier than when among the company of friends.

After Aysgarth, Ralph did his GCSEs at Ampleforth College and his A Levels at Shrewsbury School. Not built for traditional public school sports, Ralph joined in where he could but it was at Shrewsbury School that he found his niche. Shrewsbury is a rowing school and at less than eight stone, he was the ideal weight for a cox.

Ralph's two years at Shrewsbury coincided with a strong first eight and the arrival of Todd Jesdale, an exceptional coach from North America. In 2006 Shrewsbury School first eight had a superb year, winning the Schools Head of the River for the first time in 24 years by a record margin of 26 seconds. They had the satisfaction of overtaking Eton after Chiswick and beat 36 other school's first boats. The same year they won the National Schools Regatta and just about everything else they entered!

After a short cookery course at the Orchard Cookery School, Ralph spent the 2006-07 ski season as a chalet host in Les Arcs. With his laid back charm he was often able to persuade the guests to tidy up and make their own beds so he could spend more time showing them around the mountain. Subtle changes to the menus helped to save more time, for example rustic (unpeeled) mashed potato saved at least 15 minutes a day, which could be better spent skiing. These ruses paid off and his skiing improved enormously. In February 2007 he finished second Englishman in the Robert Blanc Derby, a race involving 250 starters over a 6km course from the highest to the lowest skiable point in Les Arcs. Skiing remained a passion and he always managed to get to the slopes at least once every year.

Armed with a BA in Business Studies from Oxford Brookes University, Ralph began his working career at a school uniform factory in Leeds. In 2012 he joined London House Rugs in Boston Spa and discovered his true calling, buying and selling oriental rugs. His natural ability to take a sincere interest in people and his willingness to go out of his way to help made him an ideal salesman. After a year in Yorkshire he set

up an outpost in London to take advantage of the business opportunities there. Business was brisk and his lengthy list of customers included Rowan Atkinson, Annie Lennox and the Ward Room on Nelson's HMS Victory. Ralph thrived and loved every minute of it.

Ralph left London House early in 2017 and spent more than three months travelling India to improve and expand his knowledge of the country and of oriental rugs. Staying with business contacts, suppliers, rug manufacturers and local families he went from Lahore in the North down the west coast to the southern tip then up the east side of the country all the way to Kathmandu. It was the beginning of a real love for and fascination of the orient.

He returned to the UK in June 2017 and in July moved into a new flat in Fulham and joined Matthew Wailes (London) Ltd in Chelsea Harbour as Brand/Sales Manager for BOMAT, a Belgian owned Indian rug manufacturer. He had everything to live for. Ralph died in his sleep on 27th August 2017. He was with friends celebrating a 30th birthday party. He was doing exactly the sort of thing he liked doing most.





# AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

## HEADMASTER'S EXHIBITION SPEECH

FR WULSTAN PETERBURS OSB  
HEADMASTER OF AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE

**G**OOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO EXHIBITION. It is good that we have this annual celebration of the many achievements of our young people and of the life of the College; and it is very good to have you with us.

It is now almost a year that I have had the privilege of serving as Headmaster of Ampleforth College. Thank you for your support, which along with that of the monastic community, the trustees and my colleagues, especially Deirdre Rowe and Hannah Pomroy, has been of great assistance and encouragement to me.

Ampleforth College is, of course, a Catholic Benedictine school, its values being those of the Christian Gospel and the Rule of St Benedict. The education offered here is, I think, in many ways a very traditional education, but I don't think that it is one that is stuck in the past. As I have said to the students at the House Pitches this year, tradition is important in the life of any community, in the life of any school: it gives us a sense of who we are and of what our values are; but tradition cannot simply be a canonisation of the past, of views or attitudes or of particular or preferred ways of doing things; tradition, rather, must be dynamic and must be life-giving. Specifically, the traditional values of an Ampleforth education must equip our young people for life in the modern world, a world that offers so many opportunities, but at the same time can present challenges and even threats. At the end of their schooldays, when they leave the valley, we want our young people to be confident; to be capable of, and to have formed, good and lasting friendships; to be equipped with the right qualifications and skills that will stand them in good stead for university and beyond; and, of course, to have explored and to continue to live a life of faith. The school, then, must take its cue from what St Benedict says to the Abbot as teacher of the community, namely that he must be ready to draw out from his storeroom things both old and new, so that our young people are prepared for the future.

It is also St Benedict's advice to the Abbot that in the monastery he should arrange all things, so that the strong have something to strive for and the weak nothing to run from. Whilst this might sound a little like the separating of the sheep from the goats, it is clear from his Rule that Benedict was sympathetic to human nature and its needs, and that he had a profound concern for the welfare of individuals, as well as the whole community. In the College, then, we recognise that each and every student - much like ourselves - has both strengths and weaknesses, and that it is our



responsibility to see that they receive the support they need, whilst at the same time being appropriately stretched and challenged. Our concern is the flourishing of the individual in all aspects of his or her life - spiritually, socially, academically, on the sports field, in music, culture and the arts - the flourishing of the whole person; but, this of course takes place in the context of a genuine community from which its members benefit and to which they owe responsibilities.

To my mind, a defining feature of Amplefordians is the quality of the friendships that they make, a reflection, I would hope, of the emphasis on community that comes from the Rule and the life of the monks here at Ampleforth. Over the years, I have been fortunate to see the development and growth of these friendships here in the College, and then further afield in families and among groups of families here in the UK, across Europe and stretching from Asia to the Americas. The Ampleforth family is certainly widely spread, but many choose to stay in touch, including with us here in the valley; and I have much enjoyed meeting many of you, along with former students (including some from my time as Housemaster in St John's), as well as hopeful future applicants at various events.

Academic life, including academic achievement, is clearly vital to a school. Monasteries are places of learning, communities in which study and scholarship are valued; and the desire to learn - and to succeed academically - is something that we encourage in our students, whatever their level of academic ability. To foster this, we have created a new senior post in the College, namely that of Assistant Head for Academic Development, which will be taken up in September by Harriet Thomson who joins us from Truro School, where she is currently Director of Learning Progression. Reporting to the Director of Studies, Harriet will oversee the various academic pathways that students follow through the College, ensuring that the necessary support through excellent teaching, appropriate intervention and challenge is there for all students. It is our aim that each and every student must be enabled to fulfil their academic potential and thus achieve the best possible public examination results of which he or she is capable. In today's world, they need these results, and it is our responsibility to help them achieve them.

As I am sure many, if not all of you, know, last summer's GCSE results were the best ever achieved at the College with 64% of all grades achieved being A\* & A and 86% A\* - B. At A level, 45% of all grades were A\* & A and 72% A\* - B, the average points score per student being equivalent to three A grades. If we were to consider the grades achieved by those in the A and B streams, so those who would gain entry to schools much more narrowly selective than Ampleforth, then at GCSE 86% of all grades were A\* & A and at A level 71% of all grades were A\* & A. These results bear good comparison with more narrowly selective schools; and in terms of value-added, for all qualifications, Ampleforth was ranked in the top 8% of schools nationally and

in the top 12% of independent schools. To my mind, these are good results, but we cannot rest there - there is no room for complacency.

A second senior post that we have established is that of Assistant Head for Benedictine Development, which Gaelle McGovern will take up in September. In recent years, we have done much to articulate Ampleforth's Benedictine character, and to share this with both staff and students; and for the past 18 months we have had the considerable benefit of the St Columba Community (members of the Manquehue Apostolic Movement from Chile) living and working with us. Gaelle's task, working with Fr Chad our Senior Chaplain, will be to ensure that in our next phase of development we expand our work in this area with staff, so that the students will be provided with varied opportunities to contribute to this aspect of the life of our school community. An interesting, and encouraging sign of the success of this in the College this year is that just over half of the students in the school have been involved with voluntary lectio divina groups.

In the final paragraph of the Prologue to his Rule, St Benedict describes the monastery as 'a school for the Lord's service.' As well as learning to serve the Lord, learning to serve others is part of learning to live well in any community, and is very much one of those things that we think should characterise an Ampleforth education, and therefore Old Amplefordians. Our annual celebration of St Benedict's Day in March not only allows us to commemorate our Patron Saint, but affords our students the opportunity to learn for themselves at first-hand what so many others do for them on a regular basis; and, of course, the Alban Roe Projects, the upcoming Friendship Holiday and daily life in the school present all sorts of ways and opportunities to serve.

Sport, music, art, drama and activities of all kind provide important means of self-expression, personal development and working with others, and so also help to develop friendships and the strength of our community. Some of us will already have seen this year's Exhibition Play, *The Railway Children*, and I invite you to visit the Art Exhibition in the Sunley Centre. We heard some of our musicians at Mass last night and more this morning, just two of the many occasions each year when they perform - the St Cecilia Concert, *The Messiah* and the Girls' Schola's rendition of Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* spring particularly to mind. Just recently in sport, our senior girls came first in the HMC Athletic competition in Gateshead, our senior boys coming second. From the games fields to the recital room, from the art studio to the theatre, from the valley to Lourdes, from our community to the service of others, the successes and contributions of our students in all of these areas are manifold, and many of these are celebrated in today's Prize Giving.

Ampleforth, then, is not a school in which only the academic is valued - a 'hothouse,'

an 'exam factory' - but, rather, a vibrant community in a beautiful location that lends itself to a proper holistic education in which young people are supported, challenged and enabled to give of their best, certainly academically, but also in all aspects of their lives. It is a community in which monks work with lay people, and in which teachers work with parents, to ensure the flourishing and thriving of every young person committed to our care.

And so, in conclusion, I would like to thank staff and students, and also you the parents, for all that you contribute to Ampleforth, making it the place it is today and will be in the future.

## ACADEMIC LIFE 2016-2017

HANNAH POMROY  
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

STAFF AND STUDENTS RETURNED to school in September pleased by the results attained in the summer examinations. In a time of rapid curriculum change, A Level results stood at a solid 40% A\*-A; and 68% A\*-B grades (10% were A\*). In 2017, 57% of university places gained were at Russell group universities and 68% at Sutton Trust Top 30 universities. Almost three quarters of applicants were accepted at their first choice university, including four Oxbridge places. Continuing the trend of students studying abroad, five students are known to have accepted places at overseas universities: one each at Boston University, Trinity College Dublin, Webster University in Vienna, and two at IE University in Segovia, Spain. Our grades at GCSE were even more pleasing: 60% A\* and A grades, only a small decrease from last year's record results. Credit must be given to the students, and their teachers, for all the hard work and time dedicated to achieve this level of success.

As always we continue to work hard to further improve upon these results. Extensive curriculum reform across both GCSE and A level has presented considerable challenges for all involved. The new qualifications have generally more knowledge content, and in appropriate subjects, the requirement for mathematical skills and understanding has increased. This has put pressure on teachers to cover more material, and consequently we have begun teaching GCSE Maths, English, Science and Christian Theology in Year 9. With this increased content and the near-disappearance of AS levels, more students are choosing to study three rather than four A levels in Year 12. Restrictions on the support that teachers can give students with their coursework (or Non-examined Assessment) have also increased significantly. However, there are of course many new opportunities in this rigour. Students are having to further develop their independent learning skills, staff are revisiting topics not taught for many years and enjoying the new challenge. Teaching a linear course (examined at the end of two years) requires a fresh look at learning strategies to ensure learning is deep and lasting.

There is an increasingly well-considered movement within education to ensure that the teaching and learning strategies teachers use are informed by research. At Ampleforth College we have been focusing on ensuring we maximise the effectiveness of every learning opportunity, and in particular the way in which we use prep time. A review of research on homework shows that it is most effective when tasks set are carefully planned, with a focus on quality over quantity. Making sure the purpose of the task is understood by the students, and that the task achieves its

aims efficiently and in a meaningful way that builds the students' confidence is also important. The wider use of iPads within the school is enabling staff to give feedback on tasks in a much more timely and specific way.

Students have a wide range of learning opportunities outside the classroom, and this year fresh impetus has been brought by the appointment of Miss Harriet Thompson to the role of Assistant Head: Academic Development. Miss Thompson's remit is to help develop pathways for students through their academic studies and onwards. Students have already benefited from days out attending masterclasses at Oxford and Cambridge Universities this term. She is also exploring a range of alternative Level 3 qualifications for students to study post-16.

The year ahead will be a testing time for students and teachers alike, as many new qualifications come to be examined for the first time. We will continue to strive for excellence in all we do, but most of all in helping our students to get the very best out of their Ampleforth experience; and give of their very best in return.

## THE COLLEGE STAFF

SEPTEMBER 2016 - JULY 2017

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Headmaster                           | Rev Wulstan Peterburs OSB BA PhD <i>History</i> |
| Deputy Head                          | Miss D Rowe MA CCRS <i>Music</i>                |
| Director of Studies                  | Dr HR Pomroy BSc PhD <i>Head of Mathematics</i> |
| Senior Admissions Registrar          | Mrs H McKell BA <i>English</i>                  |
| Director of Professional Development | Mr AS Thorpe BSc CChem MRSC <i>Chemistry</i>    |
| Head of Boarding                     | Mr AP Smerdon BSc <i>Geography</i>              |
| Head of Sixth Form                   | Mr WF Lofthouse MA <i>Classics</i>              |
| Head of Middle School                | Dr R Warren BSc PhD <i>Mathematics</i>          |
| Director of Co-curricular            | Mr AJ Hurst BSc <i>Biology</i>                  |
| Senior Chaplain                      | Fr Chad Boulton BA <i>Chaplain, St Aidan's</i>  |

## HOUSEMASTERS/HOUSEMISTRESSES

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| St Aidan's            | Mrs A Le Gall MA <i>EAL/Lang</i>                 |
| St Bede's             | Mrs V Anglim BEng <i>Design &amp; Technology</i> |
| St Cuthbert's         | Mr JD Rainer BA MA <i>Christian Theology</i>     |
| St Dunstan's          | Mr BTA Pennington BSc <i>Mathematics</i>         |
| St Edward's/Wilfrid's | Mr AC Cooke BA <i>Education Studies</i>          |
| St Hugh's             | Mr MB Fogg BA <i>Christian Theology</i>          |
| St John's             | Mr P Curran BSc <i>Computer Science</i>          |
| St Margaret's         | Mrs GMO McGovern MA BA <i>Christian Theology</i> |
| St Oswald's           | Mr J Cochrane BSc <i>Physics</i>                 |
| St Thomas's           | Mr JB Mutton MA <i>Classics</i>                  |

## MONASTIC COMMUNITY

Fr Kevin Hayden BA MA STB Mth *Chaplain, St Bede's*  
 Fr Richard ffield BSc, ACGI, AMIMEchE *Chaplain, St Cuthbert's*  
 Fr Matthew Burns MA *Chaplain, St Dunstan's*  
 Fr Philip Rozario BA BTh *Chaplain, St Edward's/Wilfrid's*  
 Fr Hugh Lewis-Vivas MA STB *School Guestmaster; Chaplain, St Hugh's*  
 Fr Cyprian Smith MA *Chaplain, St John's*  
 Fr James Callaghan MA *Modern Languages, Classics, Chaplain, St Margaret's*  
 Fr Henry Wansbrough MA STL LSS *Christian Theology; Chaplain, St Oswald's*  
 Fr Alexander McCabe MA *Modern Languages, Christian Theology, Chaplain, St Thomas's*





Fr Cedd Mannion BSc MPhil *Chemistry*  
Br Ambrose Henley MA *Classics, Christian Living*  
Fr Francis Dobson FCA *FACE-FAW*

## LAY STAFF

A Carter MA *English*  
SG Bird BA ATC DipAD *Head of Art*  
GD Thurman BEd *History, Outreach Coordinator*  
\*Mrs PJ Melling BSc BA *Mathematics*  
ID Little MA MusB FRCO ARCM LRAM *Director of Music*  
D Willis MEd *Mathematics*  
JGJ Allisstone BA *Film/TV, English, EAL, School Counsellor*  
WJ Dore MA FRCO *Assistant Director of Music, Organist*  
PT Connor MA *Head of History*  
SJ Howard BSc *Chemistry*  
M Torrens-Burton MA *EAL, Classics, Country Pursuits*  
JP Ridge MA *Modern Languages, Director of Health and Safety*  
Miss J Sutcliffe BA *Classics*  
BJ Anglim BEng *Head of Design & Technology*  
Mrs JEC Hurst BSc *Assistant Housemaster St John's, Biology*  
TJW Walsh MA *Art*  
SMG Baseley MA *Modern Languages*  
CG O'Donovan BSc MA *Mathematics*  
Dr JM Weston BA MA DPhil *Mathematics, Head of Academic Scholars*  
Mrs AM McNeill BA *Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Head of Christian Theology*  
Mrs F Garcia-Ortega BA *Modern Languages*  
Miss JN Horn BA *Assistant Housemistress St Bede's, Head of Core PE,*  
*Assistant Head of Middle School*  
JW Large BSc PhD *Assistant Head of Mathematics, DoE Award Scheme Manager*  
Mrs J Stannard BSc *Modern Studies*  
Miss JMC Simmonds BSc *Modern Studies*  
JJ Owen BEd *Physical Education*  
\*Mrs MB Carter BA, BSc *Christian Living*  
Mrs CRM Dent BSc *Head of Geography*  
JO Devitt MPhys *Head of Physics*  
Dr EV Fogg MA PhD *Head of EAL, English*  
SR Owen MA *Head of French*  
PW Anderson BSc MSc *Head of Biology*  
Maj MS Blackford MA Psc CELTA, MCGI *CCF*  
DJ Davison MA *English*  
A Hardie MA *Assistant Head of Music*



AJJ Powney MA TTh PGCE *Christian Theology*  
 Mrs HC Pepper MA *Assistant Housemistress St Aidan's, Assistant Head of Christian Theology*  
 \*Mrs TM Jones BSc MSc *Mathematics*  
 \*Dr LM Kessell BSc PhD *Physics*  
 \*Mrs M Rainer BA *History*  
 Mrs A Rogerson *Christian Theology, Chaplaincy Assistant*  
 B Townend MPh *Assistant Housemaster St Hugh's, Physics*  
 Dr CG Vowles BA PhD *Acting Head of English*  
 C Booth BSc *Head of Basil Hume Scholars, Physical Education*  
 RM Hudson MA *Christian Theology, FACE-FAW Coordinator*  
 W James *Head of Sport Performance and Development, Head of Rugby*  
 Miss A Rosenberg MA *History*  
 Miss MV Serrano Fernandez MA *Assistant Housemaster St Cuthbert's, Modern Languages*  
 J Depnering DPhil *German*  
 Miss G Foster BA *Assistant Housemaster St Edward's & St Wilfrid's, History*  
 Mrs H Graham BSc *Geography*  
 Mrs J Kyrke-Smith BA *Head of Classics*  
 Mrs E Levahn BA *Head of Drama/Theatre Director*  
 Miss A Lister BA *Art*  
 B McNiff BA *Geography*  
 Mrs E Coop BA *Chemistry*  
 \*Mrs J Adams BA *Drama*  
 Miss G Atkins BSc *Director of Sport*  
 OS Beveridge BSc PhD *Science*  
 \*Ms D Brown BA MPhil *SEN*  
 \*Mrs R Clough BA *Drama*  
 D Cocks BSc *Biology*  
 \*Mrs C Day BA *English*  
 \*Miss J Douglas *Music*  
 RNA Groarke BSc *Head of Business Studies & Economics*  
 J Hart BEng *Design & Technology*  
 Miss L Hornby BA *Sport*  
 Miss K Medway BMus *Music*  
 E Reid BSc *Mathematics*  
 Miss E Richmond BA *English*  
 Miss L Walsh *Dance*

\*Part Time

## LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS 2016 - 2017

Miss E Torres *Spanish*  
 Miss C Wehrmann *German*

## LEAVERS 2016 - 2017

MA Barras BSc *ICT*  
 \*Mrs J Campbell BA *Drama, English*  
 Miss L Follos BA *D&T*  
 D Lambon MEng BSc *Headmaster, Mathematics*  
 PJ McBeth BMus *Housemaster St Oswald's, Head of Keyboard*  
 D Moses MA DPhil *Housemaster St John's, English*  
 R Pineo BSc *PE, Games*  
 C Potts BA *Asst Housemaster St Thomas', Music Outreach Coordinator, Music*  
 LWB Ramsden BA *Housemaster St Edward's-Wilfrid's, History*  
 \*Mrs L Roberts *MA English*

\*Part Time

# SCHOOL OFFICIALS

SEPTEMBER 2016 - JULY 2017

## HEAD MONITORS

MK Rylands (M)                      TFDR Channer (D)

## DEPUTY HEAD MONITORS

AEM Madden (B)                      FRA Fawcett (C)

## MONITORS

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| St Aidan's            | MLA Baker, LE Hampshire        |
| St Bede's             | BMS Byrne Hill, IHP Wood       |
| St Cuthbert's         | HF Browne, TG D'Arcy           |
| St Dunstan's          | EC Hirst, AW Corrie            |
| St Edward's-Wilfrid's | AWI Robison, AJB Hall          |
| St Hugh's             | MP Rudman, JP McKell           |
| St John's             | RF Waley, HHE Swinburne        |
| St Margaret's         | MC Hall, MH Barber             |
| St Oswald's           | T Picceri, JSG Mangles         |
| St Thomas'            | PH Williamson, TC Worth        |
| Sports Monitors       | LP MacLellan (H), M Cooper (B) |

## CAPTAINS OF GAMES

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Athletics Girls | CM Cooper (B)    |
| Cricket         | BMB Fawcett (C)  |
| Fencing         | TS Captur (J)    |
| Golf            | TC Worth (T)     |
| Hockey Girls    | OA Smerdon (M)   |
| Hockey Boys     | LP MacLellan (H) |
| Netball         | MH Barber (M)    |
| Rounders        | FJS Davison (B)  |
| Rugby           | EC Hirst (D)     |
| Squash          | BMB Fawcett (C)  |
| Swimming Girls  | CE Morgan (A)    |
| Swimming Boys   | HRH Seddon (H)   |

## ACTIVITIES CAPTAINS

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Beagling             | BB Sanders (D)   |
| Clay Pigeon Shooting | B Harmer (T)     |
| Game Shooting        | AWI Robison (EW) |
| Shooting             | B Harmer (T)     |

## LIBRARIANS

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| TS Captur (J)            | JIP Stephens (H)     |
| CJL Laczko-Schroeder (J) | XW Wain-Blissett (J) |

### *The following students joined the school in September 2016:*

LEJ Allisstone (O), OJ Andrews (O), K Ao Jeong (EW), M Arellano-Diaz de Leon (EW), BJM Bentley (D), LF Beveridge (T), RC Blake-James (H), M Blay Alcantara-Garcia (D), LMM Boré (A), CWA Brett (O), IEM Bridgeman (B), S Bromet (M), C Bürger, (B), S Chang (H), CS Cunningham (D), JM de Almansa Garrido (O), CJC de Bertodano (A), PJB de Castellane (C), RJD Drummond-Herdman (C), T Echenique Ramirez (M), ACC Edwardson (B), GEF Eyston (D), ACM Faller (A), LLE Faujour (EW), PM Felipes (A), R Felipes (T), L Ferrer Forteza (O), FS Fitzalan Howard (D), HM Fitzalan Howard (H), CD Fraser (T), B Gadret (T), J Gautier-Sauvagnac (EW), CM Gaytán de Ayala Roca de Togores (EW), GE Gill (B), C Graf von Moy (H), GK Grobelny (B), E Groves (H), DGW Guthe (EW), MM Hamilton (A), FLM Harrison (A), CEA Hatschek (M), H Hayot (A), L Henckel von Donnersmarck (T), WA Hetnal (EW), JH Higgins (C), D Holt (EW), CML Hornyold-Strickland (B), F Hubbard (J), T Hubbard (J), AMFY Jacheet (C), B James (D), HC Johnson-Ferguson (C), SJR Kilpatrick (J), CA Kirwan (M), CBM Klenner (T), EJ Kotowska (A), LF Krefeld (B), LR Laden (A), RE Lally (B), KH Langdale (T), C Lee (T), XRH Leitch (J), Z Li (C), E Majani (B), GJ Mamo (D), LA Mamo (A), PJE Martin (A), FAP May (M), EM McKell (A), G Metternich-Sandor (EW), JST Mitchell (O), GB Moran (O), SP Morris (A), GW Murphy (T), GH Murray (A), FHD Murray Wells (EW), ESM Myers (M), NN Nkwonta (A), J Nunn (O), JPD Ogden (D), CM Owles (M), M Parnis England (A), HPT Pharaony (O), P Pinya-Nadal (T), V Prieto Vega (B), H Raitz von Frenzt (H), I Ramirez de Aguilar (EW), R Ramirez Ortiz (C), A Ratibor (B), CMP Richardson (A), CNHL Roberts (A), IODL Roberts (A), LFF Roe (C), IC Rogerson (B), J Sanahuja (EW), ST Sanders (D), F Schofield (J), FC Schofield (H), AFJ Sedgman (A), K Selby Boddy (H), Y Shen (A), Y Song (B), NV Stainton (B), TP Swainston (O), FA Sweeney (B), HCCH Tieleman (D), CWA Towneley (O), GBM Trabattoni (A), C Tsang (EW), AJS Tubbs (H), EJA Vigne (H), C von Palombini (C), Y Wang (EW), C Wendt (A), FK Wentworth-Stanley (C), BAY Wright (T), Y Xu (C), SJC Yik (B).



***From St Martin's Ampleforth:***

EG Anglim (B), JMS Armstrong (O), SMT Blackford (T), AH Brown (O), HMJ Child (H), JL Connor (T), NE Diugwu (M), W Durée (J), ET Hannah (EW), OA Hannah (EW), QD Harmer (H), J Hepden (J), L Hirst (D), F Horcajo Rubi (F), P Hormaechea Garcia-Mauriño (A), S Kalinin (T), G Laird (O), IA Lo Bue di Lemos (J), FGF McGovern (T), A McKenna (M), J Montero Núñez (D), E Muyanja-Kyeyune (H), G Nikitits (J), FRM Owens (T), CGD Pickstone (M), RF Pomroy (T), N Rousselet (EW), BJ Scoresby Smith (H), IO Sykes (M), SGR West (H).

***The following students left the school in October 2016:***

AB van den Berg (O).

***The following students left the school in January/February 2017:***

BCJ Diugwu (O), DW Hunter Blair (D), JR Nunn (O).

***The following students left the school in March 2017:***

BPM Blumer (O), A Christensen Novoa (H), T Echenique Ramirez (M), ACC Edwardson (B), C Jeuffrain (EW), G Laird (O), ECF McGovern (B).

***The following students left the school in the June/July 2017:***

*St Aidan's* PMC Ahmad-Otigbah, X Bai, MLA Baker, Y Chen, K Doerfler, ACM Faller, CMG Hamilton, LE Hampshire, ER Higgins, P Hormaechea Garcia-Mauriño, EJ Kotowska, M Lacoste, GMM le Hodey, J Lei, PHD Leibinger, CMA Montagne, CE Morgan, A Padierna de Villapadierna Orbaneja, A Pasqual del Pobil Gorina, PJMN Renard, N Robert, SMS Romier, GBM Trabattoni, F Walewska, CF Wendt.

*St Bede's* JB Aldous-Ball, AECM Annicchiarico, C Bürger, BMS Byrne Hill, FIDR Channer, CM Cooper, FJS Davison, G Fumagalli, LF Krefeld, GA Loffhagen, W Ma, AEM Madden, ESMJ Majani, RM O'Dwyer, RA Owen, MF Pattinson, V Prieto Vega, A Ratibor, PP Sanz-Magallon Duque de Estrada, TA Thompson, CMT Toone, IHP Wood.

*St Cuthbert's* A Behr, MP Blakiston Houston, HR Browne, JJR Clark, TG D'Arcy, AJD Drummond-Herdman, D du Passage, S Eke, BMB Fawcett, FRA Fawcett, EH Johnson-Ferguson, LA Kehoe, EWA Lodge, JV Marin Alvarez de Espejo, R Ramirez Ortiz, C von Palombini, AZP Yeo.

*St Dunstan's* M Blay Alcantara-Garcia, TFDR Channer, AW Corrie, C Fong, HDDV Gaisford, AJ Hampshire, EC Hirst, ASJ Hopkins, IJE Miller, JD Morrell, BB Sanders, HCCH Tieleman, AR Wallner.

*St Edward's/Wilfrid's* K Ao Jeong, M Arellano-Diaz de Leon, SHS des Forges, DPL Donnelly, E Gambin, AJB Hall, LGA Holzhausen, F Lambert, TW Lyons, HGB Owles, I Ramirez de Aguilar Fernandez, AWI Robison, J Sanahuja Canela, JF Stephenson, PEA Trant, EB Turchi, FW Waldburg, HV Wareing, X Wong.

*St Hugh's* J Campo-Redondo Hartmann, M Davis Cortina, BD Hood, A Job, AM Kingston, MB Lambert, LP MacLellan, JP McKell, EJ Nguesso, H Raitz von Frenzt, MP Rudman, HRH Seddon, JIP Stephens, Z Sun, SGR West.

*St John's* HWT Bett, HRAL Boyle, TS Captur, RJ Humphreys, CJL Laczko-Schroeder, HW McDonnell, P Nikitits, HHN Ramsay, BJ Scoresby Smith, HHE Swinburne, RF Waley.

*St Margaret's* ICV Andrews, IS Armitage, MH Barber, CSA Davies, CMLA de Galzain, PLSM de Liedekerke, IMCA Fox, KISS Fox, MC Hall, K He, IC Higginbotham, BA Newbould, TA Pelham, MK Rylands, AL Savill, AFM Shillington, OA Smerdon, KRC Wells, X Yuan.

*St Oswald's* PM Black, JCS Breese, JM de Almansa Garrido, L Ferrer Forteza, RB Gould, CJ Harte, LWMM Hatschek, LP Hill, JA Hodgson, NEG Majani, JSG Mangles, OA Peers, T Picceri, HCE Rooms, CJ Vangerven, R Wang.

*St Thomas's* JMC Alvergnas, CJ Andrews, MHK Chan, WF Cooper, LMT Czernin-Kinsky, GLM Douville de Franssu, B Gadret, D Guedes Ribeiro, MTP Hay, HA Hodson, CBM Klenner, G Lamarche, P Piña-Nadal, C Schweren, PH Williamson, TC Worth, MP Wragg, AT Wrightson.

# MUSIC AT AMPLEFORTH

IAN LITTLE  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

HOW WILL NEXT YEAR LIVE UP TO THIS LAST ONE? Familiar words from staff when so many fine musicians leave the school at the end of the year. As always, though, new students arrive and bring their valuable talents and experiences, and students further up the school assume leading positions wanting to make their mark; so it is not long before pleasant sounds are coming out of the rehearsal rooms. Last year was no different and the calendar was packed with musical events of one kind or another whether by nature formal or informal, instrumental or choral, solo or ensemble, on campus or further afield, involving our own students or welcoming students from other schools to join us to make music. So this brief report is just a snapshot of all the musical activity.

The College instrumentalists were at the forefront of the music-making. The largest group, College Orchestra, had a busy year, preparing some challenging and contrasting symphonic repertoire which they performed with great determination. For the annual St Cecilia Concert two jovial dance movements - *Habañera and Toreador Song* from Bizet's opera *Carmen* - provided a striking contrast with two weighty movements from Holst's *Planet Suite*, Mars and Jupiter. To this was added the *Wedding March* from Mendelssohn's incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Bernstein's *West Side Story Suite*, which brought some Latin American flavour to the Spring Concert in March. At Exhibition Prize Giving the College Orchestra collaborated with the Pipe Band performing the *Game of Thrones* theme and accompanying the audience at the end of the ceremony for a rendition of Parry's *Jerusalem*. The Big Band's first event of the year saw them play at the World War 2 Weekend in October: crowds were attracted by the war songs and the more extrovert among them were encouraged to dance. In the summer term the band gave a concert on home territory and also provided one of the Exhibition highlights playing at the Middle School Marquee supper. The Brass Ensemble was heard at several major events; highlights included Walton's *Spitfire Prelude* and Gershwin's *I got rhythm*, and Pro Musica's major repertoire included Vivaldi's *Double Cello Concerto*, *St Paul Suite* by Holst and Handel's *Organ concerto in F*.

The Ampleforth Highlanders continue to be in great demand. In October they took part in the Houghton-le-Spring Tattoo quickly following that with support of various Remembrance Parades and Services at College and further afield. The band performed with the famous Bagrock Group, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers at The Sage, Gateshead, and the New Year brought the usual Burns Night events. The band had much success in March, not only in local solo piping and drumming events but also

at the 4th Annual Scottish Schools' Contest at Edinburgh where the band's accommodation was none other than Edinburgh Castle itself! Alongside these major events the band also found time to visit some prep schools and play at charity events.

The Schola continues to play an important part in the liturgical life of the school, singing at Mass on Sundays and on Friday evenings. The repertoire is large and always developing. This year Duruflé's *Missa Cum Jubilo* was re-introduced along with several 16th century motets for lower voices. A number of new works were prepared by the Sunday choir of which the most exciting was a motet, *O praise God in his sanctuary* commissioned from Francis Jackson, emeritus organist of York Minster and a church music composer of renown; it was a privilege for our students to meet Dr Jackson who attended the premiere, especially as this was just six months before his 100th birthday! The work has already been taken up by other choral foundations and it is likely that it will be published in 2018. An offshoot of the Schola, The Ampleforth Singers, a student directed group, took part in several events including the St Cecilia concert, lunchtime concerts and a formal concert in March in the parish church at Helmsley. The premiere of Alexander Hopkins' *Requiem* was a particular highlight.

Informal concerts in Main Hall have been a regular feature giving soloists the opportunity to present pieces in a relaxed environment; they have been particularly useful for students preparing for public practical exams.

So what about this current year? At the time of writing there has been no reduction in student activity and the signs are that it will be another fine year of music-making at Ampleforth.

# CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ALISTAIR HURST  
HEAD OF ACTIVITIES

THE CO-CURRICULAR LIFE OF THE SCHOOL continues apace, with a wide range of opportunities available to the students. They span all areas of Theatre, Music, Outdoor Pursuits and many clubs and societies. Each of these opportunities offer a selection of skills and experiences.

The CCF underwent a couple of changes in 2016-17 with the departure of our School Staff Instructor, WO1 Tony Reece and the recruitment of his successor, WO1 Wayne Glynn. Otherwise it was business as usual. We managed to recruit a full complement of cadets and were fortunate enough to secure our established staffing strength too. This ensured a full spectrum of cross year group activities could be offered, ranging from teambuilding to field-craft exercises, Field Days to Open Days and of course our detailed inclusion in Exhibition with our Annual Inspection. Brigadier Chris Ghika (E88), was the Reviewing Officer in 2017. He oversaw the range and variety the CCF offered in the central arena in what was a proud display of manpower and equipment. Overall, a good year.

In the Theatre, After Juliet was our first large-scale production of the year; an ambitious adaptation adding scenes from Shakespeare's original Romeo and Juliet to the modern sequel with double casting allowing most of the 39 actors to have significant speaking parts.

Teechers followed this in the New Year - a challenging production for the new Year 9 actors who had to take on multiple roles, which was an essential part of the play. Students performed The Railway Children at Exhibition; this classic story was brought to the Ampleforth stage with superb performances from the central cast supported by a large, cleverly choreographed chorus.

Behind the scenes, The Green Room team worked tirelessly supporting all of these productions. This group of dedicated technicians have gone from strength to strength, producing some of the largest and most complicated sets seen at Ampleforth. In recent years we have been able to provide additional classes to encourage Drama and Dance. They have become increasingly popular especially in the last 12 months, with both running nearly at capacity and some fantastic exam results being produced.

Ampleforth Youth Theatre has celebrated its first anniversary recently. In the past year it has been providing St Martin's Ampleforth students and children from the local community an opportunity to develop their dance and acting skills on a Saturday. The theatre is truly a vibrant and active part of school life.

Other activities engage students with a completely different set of interests. A team of Year 9, 10 and 11 students worked together to build and programme a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot to take part in an annual international competition, 'The First Lego League.' The theme this year is water and the robot has to complete as many water related challenges in two and half minutes as possible. There are over 20 tasks that include flushing a toilet, lifting a broken pipe and collecting rainwater. Developing a workable strategy is part of the challenge and the team have spent time comparing points, distance and type of task to calculate the optimal route and sequence of tasks. Each task requires a slightly different operation and various arms, levers and hooks are being built. The most challenging aspect of the competition is proving to be the use of feedback sensors, like colour, ultrasonic and gyroscopic sensors, in the program to help keep the robot accurately moving around the board. These opportunities not only develop skills but broaden the learning envelope that the students experience. The skill of having something meaningful to say at interview or when meeting someone for the first time can never be underestimated. In a similar vein Ampleforth has been rebuilding and renovating Land Rovers as an activity since 2006. This activity gives students the hard skills associated with basic mechanical systems, and also the soft skills of teamwork, problem solving and perseverance. It involved all aspects of restoring the vehicles from removing and restoring body panels to complete axle rebuilds.

If a student is after something a little less oily then the Chess Club meets in the lovely setting of the school library every Friday evening after lessons. The group has grown hugely in recent times with over 30 members attending the activity from across the school. There is a relaxed atmosphere and the students pair off and play some chess or tutorials are given on topics such as opening theory, difficult end-game positions and chess puzzles. The club put forward teams who played fixtures against Yarm School and Hymers College as well as reaching the national finals of the 20/20 Chess competition between schools and universities last year.

Service has been ever present at Ampleforth; one of the core activities under this umbrella is The St Laurence Project, which was set up two years ago to enable year 10 students to access an activity which would enable them to engage with Catholic Social Teaching and outreach to the local community. During the course of the year many endeavours were undertaken all run by the students themselves. Amongst other things, students baked and crafted gifts for a local old people's home, which they then visited in December for an afternoon of carols and chat. They collected small change from Houses in order to make gift hampers for clients of The Besom in York following a visit to them early in the year. They sent two full van loads of clothes to refugees and asylum seekers in York, and co-ordinated and collected for Better World Books to coincide with World Book Day in March.



# SPORT AT AMPLEFORTH

## Tennis

TENNIS CONTINUES TO BE A HUGE POPULAR sport at Ampleforth with over 250 pupils taking part during the summer term. Tennis is certainly not just a summer sport any longer; over 50 pupils take private lessons throughout the year and there are regular training sessions that all pupils can access. This year, our senior tennis players had the opportunity to compete regularly against local tennis clubs in the Thirsk Winter League; staff and pupils took part every week and enjoyed great success. A number of senior pupils also gained valuable experience assisting in the delivery of Tennis For Kids, a fantastic scheme by the LTA to offer six weeks free coaching to youngsters new to tennis. With the help of some student volunteers, Ampleforth Tennis Club gave 60 local school children six weeks of high quality tennis coaching.

In terms of school competitions, our senior teams continued to be highly competitive with the senior girls performing particularly well. Highlights included pushing Pocklington, who went to the National finals, exceptionally close in the National Cup. The senior girls also finished runners up in a regional competition at BGS, getting within one point of taking the trophy home.

Our senior boys competed very well in the North of England championships, making it to the semi-finals and only losing to the eventual winners, RGS Newcastle. The team also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Newcastle in the National Cup, each rubber was fiercely contested and our top pair even claimed a win against the North of England champions in the doubles. In June, we hosted a team of Old Amplefordians who had been unbeaten during their final year at the College, for a fixture with our senior boys. Experience proved valuable as some great doubles performances saw the Old Amplefordians claim a win against their youthful opposition.

We have a lot of good junior players who are passionate about their tennis. During the term the level of their play improved noticeably and we started to see some smart doubles play and effective volleying. The highlight was 5-4 win against St Peter's for our U14 Boys.

## Squash

Squash continues to flourish in both the winter and lent terms as another team option for boys not wishing to play rugby or hockey. We aim for matches every weekend though getting school fixtures still remains difficult. The winter term saw an influx of tennis boys to the sport. It was good to have these new players who initially used

their tennis co-ordination to good effect. By the end of term they were transferred to team players. Their best result was against Bradford Grammar with a convincing win with Gabriel Goff, Berend van den Biggelaar, and Mateo Brennikmeijer playing key roles. The number one player of the team remains for another year Jack Clark, who we hope will Captain the team.

## Netball

In 2016 a number of our girls achieved places with Satellite Academy, the first stage of the England netball pathways and one of our overseas students continued to maintain representative honours for her country in the U17 Gibraltar national squad.

The school has six outdoor courts, and one full size indoor court. The all-weather outdoor courts allow for all teams to play at the same time, but also enable the school to host a tournament in conjunction with the prestigious Ampleforth Invitational Sevens.

Teams are run by dedicated and experienced staff, and students regularly benefit from specialist sports development and strength and conditioning sessions. The school has seven competitive teams, run over all age groups (1st VII, 2nd VII, 3rd VII, 15 A/B and 14 A/B). This year saw an increase in the number of girls choosing to participate in netball with Ampleforth being able to field C teams for the first time. A full fixture programme is run with matches keenly contested by all age groups each Saturday and occasionally mid-week. House matches are also a key feature of the Netball Calendar. The talent shown within all age groups is exceptional, ranging from those who have never played before to girls who look to represent A teams in the next term. Combining both the juniors and seniors has given the girls a great opportunity to both lead groups and to learn from older players. Coaching is available for girls of all standards, and we encourage all players to enjoy the game to the best of their ability.

## Cricket

The Cricket season on the whole was severely impacted by weather this year, reducing the number of completed fixtures. For the 1st XI there were still a number of noticeable performances. Top run scorers included Arthur Champion who finished with 309 runs with a best of 94 vs the Emeriti, Captain Bevan Fawcett scoring 240 runs with a best of 113 vs Pocklington, Ludo MacLellan also contributed 179 runs with a best of 59\* vs Hymers. Michael Blakiston-Houston was the leading bowler ably supported by Charlie Buchanan. Junior cricketers showed great enthusiasm and signs of development. No fewer than four Year 10 students made 1st XI debuts across the season, which can only bode well for the future.

## Swimming

The 2016/17 season started with mixed results for the Ampleforth College Swimming team, with our senior boys winning their opening match against Sedbergh School and our senior girls just narrowly missing out. From there our teams went from strength to strength in the pool with every training session improving their speed, technique and endurance. Cancelled fixtures in the middle of season provided much frustration but allowed each swimmer to continue fine-tuning their strokes. On 25th February Ampleforth provided extremely strong competition for Barnard Castle, beating them in all four age groups with some exceptional individual and team swims. From here our senior teams fell just short against strong opposition in Durham and St Peter's to conclude a very promising season for Ampleforth College. As a whole, it was a good season for all of our swim teams, despite some of our results not reflecting the high level of effort and performance that was shown consistently by all of our swimmers. It is extremely positive to see the level of swimmers progressing through the school.

## Girls Hockey

Girls hockey at Ampleforth continues to challenge our girls to develop numerous skills and values that are important both on and off the field. The need for confidence and resilience is vitally important in the changing landscape of Independent School Sport and more importantly the changing demands of the wider world. This season has been a very enjoyable and successful one with all teams having positive winning records. The girls continue to be brave with their hockey and look to play at a high tempo that is based on predominantly attacking philosophies.

The 1st XI were passionately led by Olivia Smerdon who scored numerous crucial goals for the team and her energy on the pitch was inspirational. The highlights for the 1st XI were the 3-2 and 3-0 wins against Hymers College and Queen Margaret's School respectively. The strength in depth at senior level can be seen by the 2nd and 3rd XIs having such successful seasons. Both teams were free scoring through the season, with the 2nd XI performances of the season being a 10-0 win against Durham School and a 3-0 win against Stonyhurst College. The 3rd XI's performance of the season was a tight win against RGS Newcastle. The junior girl's enthusiasm for their hockey is marvellous to witness. The 15A highlight of the season was a superb 3-0 win against a strong Pocklington side. The Junior A team beat local rivals St Peter's 2-0 in a feisty encounter and the 14A team highlights were a 3-1 win against Sedbergh and a 1-0 win against RGS Newcastle. Next season sees the senior girls going on tour to Barcelona.

## Rugby

Rugby offers the unique opportunity for each player to grow and develop a series of values that reflect so obviously to life on and off the field. As Rugby is woven into the fabric of life at Ampleforth I am delighted to report that so many students are choosing to play at every opportunity, giving up their own time to attend extra skill development and strength and conditioning sessions. Ampleforth are in the challenging position of competing in one of the country's strongest and most competitive rugby fixture circuits, regularly playing against schools that actively run rugby scholarship programmes. This makes the achievements of our students even more impressive especially when playing in these fixtures.

Ampleforth Rugby had another successful year with highlights including another fantastic 1st XV victory over the Grammar School at Leeds to open up the season under the Captaincy of Edmund Hirst, this set up a good run of results before we embarked on two October Tours, the 1st XV toured Lisbon playing some fantastic free flowing Rugby against local opposition and the Junior U14 and U15 Rugby teams visited Belfast playing against Campbell College, Bangor Grammar School and Armagh Rugby Club. As the season progressed we saw more players being selected for County Honours with Ben Edwards and Theo Smerdon being selected for Yorkshire U15 XV - congratulations to both of them and I am sure we will see more players progressing along the same route.

Many of our new students arrive at the Ampleforth having never played a game of rugby before and it is satisfying to see them develop not only under the guidance of our group of coaches, but also by seeing our senior rugby players as role models, and realising what can be achieved with much hard work and dedication. I am sure many departing students will look back on their time playing for Ampleforth with pride and will enjoy the game for many years to come.

## Football

2017 was an important year for football at Ampleforth as we focussed our energies on senior football in line with the other schools on our circuit. Building on the foundations of 2016, we made good use of local 4G facilities at Malton Community Sports Centre to further develop a distinctly Ampleforth approach to the game which is built upon a high-tempo pressing game and controlled possession. This came to the fore in our final game of the season against Barnard Castle when both 1st and 2nd teams scored five goals against tough opponents.

The 1st XI had a slow start, losing their first three matches; however, they were only to lose one more game all season as they embarked on a six match unbeaten run

(including four straight victories) either side of half-term. Their 1-0 win against Sedbergh and the Barnard Castle performance were the undoubted highlights, as were the performances of Captain Tom Picceri and Tom D'Arcy. Working in collaboration with Rugby 7s we were able to make a number of boys available for both sports, whilst it was also particularly pleasing that seven Year 9 students made 1st XI appearances.

Similarly, the 2nd XI had some good victories and, playing in the same style as the 1st XI, ensured that there were always boys ready to step-up when injury and other commitments made opportunities available.

Well done to the boys for their commitment to football. Coaching them is a pleasure. A similarly packed fixture list promises an equally entertaining Lent term 2018.

## SUMMARY OF SPORTS RESULTS

### AUTUMN TERM 2016

|                | <i>Played</i> | <i>Won</i> | <i>Lost</i> | <i>Drawn</i> |
|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| RUGBY FOOTBALL |               |            |             |              |
| First XV       | 17            | 9          | 7           | 1            |
| All teams      | 84            | 46         | 38          | 0            |
| SQUASH (BOYS)  |               |            |             |              |
| First V        | 19            | 6          | 12          | 1            |
| All teams      | 16            | 8          | 8           | 0            |
| HOCKEY (GIRLS) |               |            |             |              |
| First XI       | 13            | 7          | 4           | 2            |
| All teams      | 73            | 46         | 20          | 7            |

### LENT TERM 2017

|           | <i>Played</i> | <i>Won</i> | <i>Lost</i> | <i>Drawn</i> |
|-----------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| FOOTBALL  |               |            |             |              |
| First XI  | 11            | 5          | 4           | 2            |
| NETBALL   |               |            |             |              |
| First VII | 10            | 1          | 9           | 0            |
| All teams | 43            | 14         | 28          | 1            |

### SUMMER TERM 2017

|           | <i>Played</i> | <i>Won</i> | <i>Lost</i> | <i>Drawn</i> |
|-----------|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| CRICKET   |               |            |             |              |
| First XI  | 7             | 4          | 3           | 0            |
| All teams | 28            | 12         | 16          | 0            |
| TENNIS    |               |            |             |              |
| Boys      | 22            | 9          | 13          | 0            |
| Girls     | 29            | 13         | 13          | 3            |
| Mixed     | 5             | 4          | 1           | 0            |





# ST MARTIN'S AMPLEFORTH

## PRIZEGIVING SPEECH

DAVID MOSES  
ST MARTIN'S AMPLEFORTH

THE POET AND CRITIC TS ELIOT was once asked if he knew a particular man, an academic at Oxford who was notoriously long-winded. "Yes" said Eliot, "I spent a whole year with him one afternoon." And indeed, in the best sense, my year at St Martin's Ampleforth has in fact been my 30 years at St Martin's Ampleforth. It has been a very good year. I have said in the past, speaking to people leaving school for the last time, that we hope we have made a difference which will set them up for their life to come. I believe that statement applies to every year of school not just the top bit: and I say to our leavers that because you remember it best and most recently you will probably be most generous (if you chose to give of your time, or money) to your university. But do not forget that it was the school that helped you there, and the school that perhaps guided you through the most difficult bit of your life, and that it was the prep school which prepared you and made you ready for the senior school. Remember us, fondly and generously.

Of course it is the end of a year which started for me with trepidation. In contrast it is also the year in which we got an unusually good (literally excellent) report from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. Excellent Common Entrance Results have made my year, and some superb and notable sporting performances, musical, dramatic, are too many to name individually.

Basil Hume Scholarships were awarded to: Hugh Irvine, Florence Tidmarsh, Charlotte Owen, Loyce James, and Gemma Breese. Academic Scholarships were awarded to Charlotte Owen and Gloria Zheng.

I have perhaps too often told young men and women in my care about my own schooling, which in its earlier years was not in any way similar to this. I was not a great student. But I think my saving grace in my teens was that I started to play the trumpet, and that took me on to other things, as well as keeping me away from trouble. I have always believed that if young people find some things difficult we should aim to help them achieve highly in one aspect of their life: and that the other things would sooner or later, follow. I will be eternally grateful to my parents for their foresight and support in suggesting that I take scholarships for a number of schools, which lead to my going for my sixth form as a music scholar to a public school in this very county. And that entirely changed my life, my expectations and aspirations. Boarding at my public school was one of the best things that has ever happened to me, and I can truly reiterate that the most important thing we do in life



is to bring up our children and to do so in an environment which releases and encourages their talents, and not in establishments which brutalise them - and indeed undue pressure and expectation can detract from the project of educating the whole person, for the whole life.

With that in mind, be wary about those who peddle the notion that something unpalatable is in fact in some way 'character building,' and question them by asking 'into what?' and the correct response if you are in the embrace of Ampleforth should be 'a caring, attentive, compassionate, morally robust individual with a healthy respect for others, a sense of service not entitlement, respect for all that has been given, and for the Creator of that plenitude. A person of moral and spiritual integrity, a giver, not merely a taker. A friend.' And I can say not as a statement of promotion but a statement of which I am sure that: that is what we do, and I am proud of it, and proud of our young people, who by and large stand apart for their manners and their thoughtfulness, and their integrity.

I want to dwell for a moment on instances in time. Our young charges know well the themes I have discussed this year and know well my preoccupation with Literature. The Romantic poet William Wordsworth says: "There are in our existence spots of time, That with distinct pre-eminence retain, A renovating virtue." He means that there are moments in our lives which stand out in our memory, which we can look back on when we are low, and which can act as an inner restorative against what he calls the 'fever of the world;' it is a place where memory connects us to the moments when we felt most alive; where we felt the narrative of our truest self - or the self we most want to be - take shape. They are moments when we realise that life's unpredictability is exciting and fulfilling. I have spoken about the importance of young people and young adults finding that illusive thing 'flow,' in which they can lose the self that they construct for others, and find the self that they most truly are at their core, in a state of unstructured time. And I think our environment here is highly suited to that.

Wordsworth's 'spots of time' sound to me very much like moments out of time, that we can turn back to and see as formative moments in which we found our self, and we can look back and cherish as a moment of true happiness. What is that like? There was, for me, a performance at rugby when I was 17, a performance on the trumpet which I remember keenly as the moment when I truly did a thing well. There was a warm night when I ran six miles in bare feet, almost unable to stop and assured that I would never lose that superb fitness. (One does, sadly). There were other moments of realisation: a breakthrough when I published in *Notes and Queries* two answers to puzzles about a medieval encyclopaedia. Then there was the time when after A levels we were encouraged to go out for a drink at a local pub by our Housemaster. There were two of us. We had enough for a pint and a half each, and

a packet of crisps. But we were happy. About to leave I put my remaining 20 pence in the fruit machine by the door, which promptly delivered £15 to me...we were even happier. In 1986 that was a fortune to me. What a moment in time that was. What have been the 'spots of time' for me at St Martin's Ampleforth this year, then? A number of sporting wins, some unexpected, are important to me - I could not have been happier at the performances of the girls in their hockey. Seeing the excellent Common Entrance results - that was high up there. The ISI Inspection was intense and stressful - and successful, and I will never forget the Lead Inspector taking my arm and saying to me "there is nothing in the inspection which allows me to write this down, but this is a very special place, and you are very lucky." I will remember it forever, and return to it. Standing in the car park in the morning and getting great feedback; standing in the car park in the morning and getting grief. Spots of good time - and spots of rain.

So these spots of time, then, these moments and memories are important, whether it be a moment when you performed, or competed, or went to the pub, or dropped life's slot machine, they are important. Your time here, even the difficult bits and the bad days, are important. And things you have been taught have been important. I was really impressed that so many of you remembered when asked, on Thursday, what I had talked to you about this year. Try to keep those memories and ideas.

Indeed I want to conclude by trying to bring together a number of ideas and themes which I have spoken about at Assembly this year. And I daily get asked about those newsletters which try to retell what I had said to our pupils at Assembly, though for a mainly adult audience. And I am often asked by parents to say more about what I wrote, or say what inspired me to write it. As I read over last night the various newsletters I have sent I realised that there was one which consolidated more successfully my various themes than any other; and strangely it rather waters them down - no pun intended - and it was connected to 'flow' and losing yourself in something, and fishing. It was when I explained to our children that toward the end of his book *Blood Knots* Old Amplefordian Luke Jennings reflects on the way that his friend and Head of House the Old Amplefordian Robert Nairac chose to fish. This was not just to cast any old bait or fly but to follow a very 'purist' method of casting imitation dry flies 'up-stream.' That is the hard way, but other methods were seen as dishonourable because they tricked the trout into taking bait which it could not resist, rather than imitating nature and thus meeting the trout on its terms.

The self-imposed rules that Nairac kept are, Jennings claims, good rules for life. You might say it is about the notion that I could do what I want, or what others want me to do, but I should do what is right. Moreover, I should be able to take pleasure from and pride in watching myself do something the right way. I think this a very significant paragraph, in which Jennings tells us:

“I understand now why Robert was absolutist in his method, and why he spoke of honour and the dry fly in the same sentence. Because the rules we impose on ourselves are everything - especially in the face of nature, which for all its outward poetry, is a slaughterhouse. It’s not a question of wilfully making things harder, but of a purity of approach without which success has no meaning. And this, ultimately, was his lesson: that the fiercest joy is to be a spectator of your own conduct and find no cause for complaint.”

I said that it is not always important to have witnesses to our actions, but it is important that you know that you are doing, or at least are trying to do things, properly. Success is often about meeting the standards we know are hard for us but which we set for ourselves and strive to meet. Setting high standards of attainment in all things has with it a great joy - that of watching yourself meet those standards and not letting yourself down. It is not that others know: it is that you know.

## ACADEMIC

**A**CADEMIC SCHOLARS TO AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE were Charlotte Owen and Gloria Zheng. Basil Hume sports scholars were Gemma Breese, Hugh Irvén, Loyce James, Charlotte Owen and Florence Tidmarsh.

The school hosted the IAPS National Poetry Competition for the second year, inviting pupils from preparatory schools across the country to submit a poem in one of three age groups. The overall winner was a pupil from Durham School and one of our own pupils was the runner up from the very many entries we received. Many of our pupils were selected for the grand final where they had the chance to perform their poem for the adjudicators, themselves well known published poets.

In Years 7 and 8 the focus has been placed strongly on the development of the literacy skills required for a confident performance across the curriculum. Pupils have worked hard on preparation for the demands of the Common Entrance.

Pupils’ personal reading has been promoted enthusiastically by class teachers and through the excellent library resources. Every month, pupils from each year group are selected to receive the reader of the month award and events such as World Book Day have been celebrated to ensure that reading has the highest profile possible in the pupils’ learning.

Pupils across all key stages have been encouraged to enter writing, poetry, handwriting and speaking competitions both internally and externally with excellent results. We took part once again in the Kids Literary Quiz, a popular national event. Lively displays of the children’s work around the school have showcased the children’s talents and the hard work of their teachers. Pupils’ speaking skills have been further developed by the successful LAMDA programme which has seen many pupils across the key stages prepare for individual and group examinations, the results for which have been outstanding.

The emphasis in the Science department throughout the school has continued to be a hands-on, investigative approach which has been much enjoyed by our pupils.

Key Stage 1 use a topic based curriculum to develop their science knowledge. Each topic highlights various aspects of the science curriculum which is explored in both practical and written ways. Materials and their properties was the first topic which was introduced through sculptures and the materials used to make them. Plants and the Seasons has been an ongoing project supported on walks up to Forest School as well as planting a variety of bulbs and seeds in and around the Pre-Prep playground and classrooms. Animals and Habitats allowed for the exploration of the



undergrowth as the children looked for and found a selection of mini-beasts and their homes. Many trips and visits have also developed the children's scientific ability and knowledge.

The seniors in Year 7 have begun the study of the revised Common Entrance syllabus which has been designed to bring it in line with the updated national Curriculum. The practical nature of the teaching has remained paramount with pupils learning by experience and by developing their experimental skills and knowledge. Many of our pupils have experienced working in a laboratory for the first time and have benefitted greatly from the additional excitement this brings to the subject. Four pupils participated in the Salters Chemistry day run in conjunction with the Royal Society of Chemistry. They found they had to work together and think quickly on their feet to solve some challenging problems. Their excellent teamwork was commented on by the judges and they gained much from the experience. Another highlight for the year was the residential field trip to the Cranedale Centre during which they studied a rocky shore habitat. In physics practical work has included electronics where pupils designed and built useful electronic circuits such as ones for traffic lights and burglar alarms. In the study of speed, future life skills were discussed in considering the physics of the Highway Code including factors that affect stopping distances and the reasons for speed limits.

Year 8 has been busy completing the CE syllabus. They have been challenged by the study of many different types of chemical reactions. Pupils demonstrated their increasing ability to learn independently and to think deeply about issues which will be very relevant to their lives. For example pupils had to gather evidence to decide how the UK should be powered. One group were given the extension task of imagining they were a team of scientists on a remote island and deciding how to power the island using only the natural resources around them. It is fascinating to note that 7th June this year was the first day that over half of the UK's energy came from renewable resources.

Maths has continued to flourish and we have been fortunate this year as we have had the input of Mr Reid and Dr Pomroy with our senior classes. This will have helped our Year 8 pupils to bridge the gap between us and the College. Our Year 5 and 6 children have enjoyed the Magic Maths workshops with well-known author, Mr Kjartan Poskitt; this gave them the opportunity to see the subject in a totally different light. A whole day of maths with plenty of giggles and problem solving.

We continue to enter the UK Maths Challenge and congratulations to Hugh Irven and Carmen Arias Mercante for being awarded Silver certificates in Year 8 and Sophie Blake-James for her Silver award in Year 7. This is a National award that is run by the UK Maths Trust at the University of Leeds.

## ST MARTIN'S AMPLEFORTH STAFF

SEPTEMBER 2016 - JULY 2017

Dr David Moses, MA DPhil *Headmaster, Teacher of English*  
Mr Julian Godwin BEd *Deputy Headmaster, Head of Boarding, History Subject Leader & Head of Health & Safety*  
Mrs Nancy Newlands-Melvin BA PGCE *Director of Studies, Modern Foreign Languages Subject Leader*  
Mr Brendan Anglim BEng MA *Teacher of DT*  
Mr Paul Arnold BSc *Maths Subject Leader & Assistant Housemaster*  
Mrs Sarah Barson BPE NZ *Teacher of Girls' Games*  
Fr James Callaghan *Teacher of Greek*  
Mr Aidan Cooke BA PGCE *Teacher of Computing*  
Mrs Samantha Cooke BMus *Teacher of Music*  
Mr William Dore MA FRCO *Novices and Strings*  
Fr John Fairhurst OSB BSc STB *Chaplain & Christian Theology Subject Leader*  
Mrs Kate Green MA PGCE *Science Subject Leader*  
Dr Vicky Fogg MA PhD *EAL*  
Mrs Carolyn Hannah BA PGCE *Year 5 Tutor*  
Mr Alistair Hardie MA *Teacher of Music*  
Mr Mark Harrison BA PGCE *Forest School and Activities Coordinator*  
Mrs Doobori Hazorika-Stéphany BA *Year 3 Tutor, Assistant Housemistress*  
Br Ambrose Henley MA STB *Teacher of Classics*  
Mr Harry Hogg BA PGCE *Teacher of Geography and Boys' Games, Assistant Housemaster*  
Mrs Jean Kyrke-Smith BA *Classics and Latin*  
Mr Ian Little MA MusB FRCO *Schola*  
Mr Bill Lofthouse MA *Teacher of Classics*  
Mrs Helen McKell BA *Teacher of English and EAL*  
Ms Katherine Medway BMus Post Grad Diploma in Orchestral Performance PGCE *Teacher of Music*  
Mrs Clare Moses MA *SEN*  
Mrs Sandra Normand Caen University Licence in English Language, Maitrisse, PGCE *Teacher of French and EAL*  
Miss Kate Oakley BEd *Head of Pre-Prep, KS1 Teacher*  
Dr Hannah Pomroy BSc PhD *Teacher of Maths*  
Mr Eoin Reid BSc PGCE *Teacher of Maths*  
Mrs Maria Richardson BA PGCE *Teacher of CT and English*  
Mrs Sue Smith BSc PGCE *Teacher of Physics*  
Mrs Jacqueline Sutcliffe BA *Teacher of Classics*  
Mrs Helen Sykes BEd *Reception Teacher*

Mrs Elena Torres-Lleyda *Teacher of French*  
Mrs Laura Waley BEd *Art and DT Subject Leader, Assistant Housemistress*  
Mrs Victoria Walker BA PGCE *Head of KS2 & Year 4 Tutor*  
Ms Laura Walsh BA LRAD RAD RTS AIDTA *Teacher of Dance*  
Mr Paul Wilkinson BSc MSc *Sport Subject Leader*  
Mrs Jill Wood BA MA *English Subject Leader, EAL, Games*

## SCHOOL OFFICIALS

SEPTEMBER 2016 - JULY 2017

### HEAD BOY AND GIRL

Hugh Irvén Charlotte Owen

### SCHOOL PREFECTS

Lucas Barnes  
Gemma Breese  
Hugh Irvén  
Loyce James  
Charlotte Owen  
Tatiana Roberts  
Isabella Torrens-Burton  
Gloria Zheng

### DORMITORY PREFECTS

Carmen Arias Merchante  
Sophie Blake-James  
Gemma Breese  
Malu Esteve  
Juan Hormaechea Garcia-Maurino  
Hugh Irvén  
Tatiana Roberts  
Alejandro Rossello

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

FR JOHN FAIRHURST OSB  
SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

EACH YEAR GROUP IN THE SCHOOL, including nursery and reception, have a chaplaincy session with the chaplain, Fr John. The purpose is to reinforce and develop the Catholic Benedictine ethos of the school. So there are regular opportunities for Mass and confession and seasonal devotions so as to enable the children to celebrate the various seasons in the school year.

So in Autumn we have a Harvest festival service; Rosary and procession in honour of Our Lady in October and May; special prayers for the dead in November, month of the Holy Souls; and an Advent Carol service. In Lent the children are introduced to the Stations of the Cross and celebrations of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord and they have a special two day retreat to reflect on different aspects of the Faith. The Summer term is characterised by the Corpus Christi procession and the final Prize-Giving Mass.

The chaplaincy sessions are also used to reinforce what the children are learning in their Christian Theology lessons, using film clips, discussions and chapel services on topics such as Creation and Fall; Abraham and Moses and the Passover; the role of the Pope, Bishops and priests. Sometimes role play is used to explain the Church's teaching on ordination, baptism and religious life.

The children are encouraged to ask questions so they can participate as fully as possible, even during Mass as part of the homily. Fr John also has help from other monks in the Ampleforth community to celebrate Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the course of the year the children are also encouraged to help those in need through prayer and fund raising, especially supporting the charity Mary's Meals.

Chaplaincy is an integral part of the religious development of the children at Gilling Castle, enabling them to understand and celebrate their faith and to feel part of the Ampleforth Benedictine Community as it aims to give them a Compass for Life and a basis for moral and spiritual growth now and in the future.

## ART & DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

THE ART ROOM HAS BEEN BUSY THIS YEAR with the introduction of a new curriculum. The class teachers have been exploring various new media using the art scheme Art Express. Pottery, tie-dying, printing and close observational paintings have been emerging. Work has been sent off to be included in the National SATIPS Art Exhibition held at Cheltenham Prep School.

Further up the school there have been some wonderful art works completed. The Take One Picture Project has branched out from the National Gallery in London, and the children took part in the York Art Gallery show. Catherine Torrens-Burton had her painting of The Shambles in the style of John Piper selected, and is included currently in the reception Gallery in York. Although many of the children were too old to take part in the primary competition, we used it as motivation for a project on York. It was wonderful to see the variety of pictures completed, from Now and Then at the National Railway, the Minster in the snow and the Star Inn the City at night. Keeping close to home the Year 7 have extended their Tudor learning in history into the Art room and beyond, to our beloved Castle. They learned about perspective and sketched various parts of the Castle, ending up completing big collaborative works studying the beautiful Great Chamber, with its unique and historical paintings, murals, panelling and stained glass. They also dressed up as Tudors and masqueraded around and photographed themselves in situ. Who else has an original Tudor banquetting chamber to draw, photograph and dine in?

One of our Year 8 pupils was successful in achieving the Basil Hume Award for Art this year. Florence Tidmarsh has continued to beaver away at home and school, drawing, and painting to a high standard. The rest of the Year 8 pupils have been inspired to use Gilling Castle and gardens to complete a variety of works as a reminder of their time here. They learn about a range of artistic styles and artists and some are reflected in their work. They all love pop art!

Year 6 have been busy on visits and workshops to aid them to complete their Arts Award Explore Certificate. This encompasses all the arts, and took the children to see the Railway Children, a theatre production by the Year 9 and 10 students at the College. We invited a working artist in, Lyn Bailey, who demonstrated her craft before the children completed lino cuts and prints with her expertise at hand.

Over the summer all students are encouraged to draw, photograph and paint the places they visit or buy scenic postcards to enhance their art work. Any trips to galleries are always extremely helpful and educational.

Again a new curriculum has been introduced this year and the designing and making

has been really exciting and varied. After a workshop hosted at Sunderland University by the DATA, the official Design and Technology National Association, we introduced the Projects on a Page curriculum to our Years 1 to 6. The iterative process of learning, used in all major corporations and industry involved in production, has been encouraged.

Interesting illuminated hats, feeders for birds, Greek temple, Egyptian Shadufs, hand sewn bags are a few of the projects completed. The ability to draw a design and to think through the ways of creating and making has been very successful and we may have budding designers and architects of the future in our midst.

Years 7 and 8 pupils are taken to Ampleforth College to take advantage of the facilities in the Sunley Centre. In Year 7 pupils are introduced to basic computer aided design (CAD) skills so that they can output their designs to a 3D printer or laser cutter. They also get an introduction to robotics by making a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot when they develop basic programs with linked sequences and variables. Pupils learn how to use a range of hand tools and machines efficiently and safely in the making of small key fobs in a variety of materials.

In Year 8 students have tackled more advanced 3D modelling CAD skills including shell, pattern and intersect tools with Autodesk Inventor. In the advanced robotics module pupils work in teams to trial, test and develop increasingly complex programs including loops with sensor feedback. In the workshop more hand tools are introduced as well as a range of machines including vibro saws, disc sanders and the pillar drills as they use make an eco-amplifier.

## MUSIC

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY AND FRUITFUL YEAR for all those involved in the music department. At the start of the academic year there was much building to be done with the Schola as the boys and girls began sharing a repertoire and singing together regularly. During the autumn term time was spent learning Fauré's 's Requiem and Messiah alongside music for performance at Mass and on other occasions. Both the concerts were splendid occasions, to which the children rose admirably. During the course of the following two terms Friday Masses became a more regular feature, with several choristers singing solos, and works by Mozart, Vierne, Sanders, Joubert and Wesley added to the repertoire.

Instrumental tuition has been going well, with 12 different instruments being taught on a regular basis from our visiting music staff. There have also been a number of instrument demonstrations in assembly, taster instrumental lessons and weekly music theory classes offered as well. We have seen many students take ABRSM music



exams across the school, including the high standard of Grade V Cello and Grade V Voice, both undertaken by Hugh Irven in Year 8.

Students have been performing to their classmates throughout the year in assemblies and informal concerts, which have all been a big success. They have also performed in parent days, with soloists playing a vast variety of repertoire and each whole year group joining together to sing. The orchestra has also met throughout the year to play fun, engaging pieces in a chamber music setting.

The year has also seen some fun collaboration with the drama and dance departments of the school. The Blackden Building was home to two Christmas Nativities – one by Pre-Prep, and another by Years 3 to 5. Years 3 to 6 also performed ‘The BFG’ in the Blackden Hall in April. All three productions featured some fantastic group and solo singing. Most recently, a group of students went over the College to perform a selection of songs and dance numbers in their recently refurbished Performing Arts Centre.

## PRE-PREP

We started a new Parent and Toddler group every Wednesday morning called Smarties. They have looked at jungle animals, farms and growing plants. The session enables parents to meet and make friends, and their children to start socialising in a safe environment. Children from 18 months to three years come and play, sing songs, explore new materials and make a craft. Places regularly become available as children move up into Nursery.

Reception have been to Scarborough as part of their Dinosaur topic visiting the Geological Museum in the Rotunda. Mrs Sykes led the trip finding footprints and fossils. The children saw skeletons and bones larger than themselves. They went to the beach and looked for fossils until the chance to dig and make channels and bridges took over. The class were commended for their good behaviour and sensible walking. They have looked at babies and families, bathed dollies in the sink and saw Mrs Dean change her baby boy’s nappy. In the Spring and New Life topic, we raised tadpoles and planted beans and seeds. All the children visited Monk Park Farm for the day and fed lambs and calves. They petted guinea pigs and rabbits and walked the length of the estate seeing wallabies and alpacas. Again, the children were a pleasure to take away. Nursery children enjoyed exploring the straw barn and swing rope and riding on tractors and bikes. They had a packed lunch and birthday cake as one child was four years old that day. The whole tea room sang ‘Happy Birthday.’

All year the children have walked to Forest Schools and done amazing things. They

have seen charcoal made in a biscuit tin over the fire then drawn pictures with the sticks. All ages have made dens, collected bugs and followed trails. They have tried swinging in hammocks and bravely walking on a strap line. Rain or shine, we trundle across our glorious grounds to forage and discover the joys of nature in the woods. Children learn to respect what lives and grows there and cooperate with their tasks.

Learning outside the classroom is a valuable tool for the children. This year they have enjoyed five off-site school visits as well as plenty of opportunity for learning outside the classroom. Key Stage 1 started the school year with a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. As an introduction to their topic on Sculptures and Materials the children were able to see and feel a range of sculptures in amazing surroundings. The children found sculptures made of bronze, iron and wood. They were fascinated by the textures of the different pieces and were keen to extend their vocabulary using words such as opaque, reflective and smooth. After lunch they found a piece of art by Antony Gormley - himself an Old Amplefordian. After half term, Years 1 and 2 visited the Thackray Museum in Leeds to complement their Florence Nightingale topic. They dressed as nurses and porters and trekked to Scutari before cleaning the hospital and bandaging soldiers.

This year the children have had a regular weekly visit to the Forest School area with Mr Harrison; they have gone whatever the weather - what a hardy bunch they are! They worked in pairs to build wooden pyramids and some of them learnt to lash sticks together to make wooden frames; they have played games such as noughts and crosses and a woodland version of skittles called Aunt Sally, and practised their sawing and lopping skills. Aunt Sally is similar to skittles and Cassius proved an excellent shot. The walk up to Forest School allows the children to observe how the trees change throughout the seasons. One day in Autumn just before reaching the camp fire they met Mr Harrison having fun taking playdoh impressions of bark and leaves - a great opportunity for them to join in and feel the different textures and expand their descriptive vocabulary.

As well as watching how nature changes the environment, the children are also encouraged to use their imaginations at Forest Schools; dens and trails are built and the children enjoy time to create their own world in the woods. During the year Callum has kept everyone on the woodland trail that involved traversing a slack line, going through the tyre of doom and not getting caught on the poisonous cobweb - Isabella did it in record time! Meanwhile Emily spent time creating a place in her den to play games and build a fire.

Science, Art and Geography have benefitted from a practical approach through their combined topic work they investigated forces and discovered how different toys are played with - pushed, pulled, stretched and twisted. In art they have painted their

favourite toys and had the opportunity to make models from a variety of materials. They have enjoyed baking pizzas and gingerbread men, using their maths knowledge to weigh and measure the ingredients. They learnt how to conduct a fair test to find out which materials would be most waterproof for the soldiers of the Crimean war to use as blankets. They also learnt about the horizon and compass points whilst on our Friday walks which replaced swimming in the first half of the summer term.

Outside of the curriculum the children have taken part in celebrations for Roald Dahl's 100th birthday, charity days for Children in Need and Red Nose Day and were visited by Jack and his Beanstalk on St Martin's Day. Throughout the year they have also enjoyed the traditional Harvest Festival, Nativity Play, Sports Day and Thanksgiving service.

## SPORT

AS WE REFLECT ON THE LAST YEAR OF FIXTURES, games sessions, after school activities and lunch time training sessions it is encouraging to see the level of commitment from pupils, staff, parents and supporters to the Sports Programme at St Martin's Ampleforth. We, as a department, would like to thank everyone who has supported the range of sporting events this year.

Once again the school has competed in rugby, hockey, swimming, cross country, netball, rounders, cricket, tennis and athletics. In addition to these, several pupils have represented Ampleforth in various equestrian events across the year; showcasing the school's excellent range of opportunities for every pupil.

Following the scholarship process, at Ampleforth College, we are delighted to congratulate Gemma Breese, Charlotte Owen and Loyce James for receiving Basil Hume Scholarships for Sport.

This year has seen another good year of individual sporting success with Loyce James (U14), Gemma Breese (U13), Charlotte Owen (U13) and Louis Pern (U12) all having represented North Yorkshire in Hockey. Following her representation, Loyce James was invited to trial for the Junior Regional Performance Centre stage of the England Hockey Performance Pathway. This is an excellent achievement and she becomes the first St Martin's Ampleforth pupil to be invited to this stage whilst at Gilling.

The Sports Development Programme has continued to prove popular for both Basil Hume Scholars and the wider Year 8 community. It was encouraging to see so many of the Year 8 pupils attending these sessions, which we hope will continue into next year. Pre-prep has again enjoyed an excellent year of PE, building the foundations

for the jump to prep school. The prep PE curriculum has continued to support the wider sports programme through improved physical literacy in addition to the swimming and athletics focus.

The girls' hockey teams showed their good quality throughout the Autumn Term producing some excellent displays of exciting, attacking hockey. This was especially evident within the 1st VII team who showed excellent skill development and a real coachable attitude to further their hockey knowledge and playing ability. Meanwhile the rugby continued to show good development with an improved transition this year, building excellent foundations for the future. The new timetable, which allows flexibility for staff to coach on both sides of the valley has had a significant impact this year and will continue into next year to ensure continuity for pupils and the individual sports development plans.

The Lent term was again the busiest for sport with the girls' netball season and boys' hockey seasons in full swing while also competing in the annual cross country meets, swimming galas and rugby 7s tournaments. The boys' hockey programme continued where the girls' teams had left off showing good improvement across skill development and game management. It was encouraging to see the potential in the U11 and the U9 teams, as well as the number of year 7s who played for the 1st Team. This should give the teams an excellent foundation from which to develop next year. In contrast to last year, the weather for the beginning of the Summer term could not have been better, with dry, warm conditions leading to some good performances in both cricket, rounders and tennis. The senior rounders teams continued the trend of the girls' sports this year with some excellent performances in good competitive matches. Meanwhile the U13 girls' tennis team finished second in the Aegon League, narrowly losing out on first place after a close last match. The cricket teams made the most of the good weather, showing good development through each age group. The 1st XI Cricket team enjoyed an excellent tour to Ireland, playing three matches on the Oak Hill Cricket Pitch, which is the sister pitch to the Ampleforth College 1st XI ground. Well done to Patrick Savill who finished the tour leading the batting with 75 runs and Alex Shaw who led the bowling attack with 6 wickets. In the Independent Association of Prep Schools Athletics Regional qualifying event Kami Diugwu won her 100m event with a time of 13 seconds. This represented an excellent run from Kami and we wish her every success in the National event in July. In addition to this, every pupil achieved their personal best with some excellent second place finishes, including the senior girls relay team.

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**The back page photograph is of the West Window in the Abbey Church**

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