



CONTACT



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EDITORIAL

By Ed Peacock



In a packed programme tonight, as Ronnie Barker used to say, we have an account by Declan Kelly of the exciting project to build a new Library and Records Centre in the grounds of Lambeth Palace. We also hear from Robin Stevens who confirms what we all suspected about members of the General Synod. David Hanson lets us see the work of the Chaplaincy team at Church House. And, sadly, we say goodbye to some former colleagues.

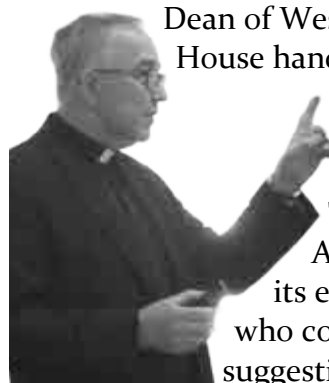
You can read about the visits your Committee organised for the pensioners – watch out, O reader, if you are on the customer relations team at the Globe Theatre – and you can sign up for a visit to Osterley House in the spring.

Before then comes All your Committee and the team who put *Contact* together (special thanks here to Robin Stevens, who has done what used to be called the type-setting for this issue) wish all our readers

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND CHEERFUL NEW YEAR

The Reunion

Friday the 13th turned out to be a great day in May, for the 2016 pensioners' reunion. The now usual service in the Church House Chapel was as uplifting as always – thanks to David Hanson and Francis Bassett for arranging it. Thanks to the



Dean of Westminster, old Church House hand John Hall, for his fascinating illustrated talk on the Abbey.

The AGM went as well as AGMs can - thanks there to its excellent Chair and to those who contributed with suggestions and comments.

Thanks to all the convivial company at the lunch – we could reminisce, deplore how things have got worse since we left, argue about the EU, chat with old friends, and enjoy the free food. And thanks of course to Matt Chamberlain and his helpers at Church House who made it happen. These photos show how well it went.

The 2017 reunion will be on Friday 19 May.

The speaker will be Sir William Fittall.

There are pictures of the 2016 reunion by Ed Peacock and Colin Bullen throughout this edition.

Lambeth Palace

In July Lambeth featured in the BBC2 series 'The Hairy Builder' (episode 7). Dave Myers visited Lambeth Palace. He explored the incredible archive, discovered the human side of Britain's greatest kings and queens and had a look at Lambeth's 'loony left' political heritage by admiring its street art.



A visit to the Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising

Gerald Baines writes:

On October 26 Jamie Milford introduced a group of five pensioners to this museum in the heart of Notting Hill.

For such a group it might be equally appropriately named the museum of golden oldies. Do you remember Churchman's no. 1, Watney's Party Seven, Dan Dare, the Bisto Kids, Fry's cream chocolate?

If you are pre-war have you still got your ration book? Did you have a child's story book about a family of barrage balloons?

And the bygone commercial tv adverts: how about Leonard Rossiter asking Lorraine Chase if she had been wafted in from paradise, and the reply, "Nah, from Luton Airport."

Then there were the swinging sixties: miniskirts and hot pants; the latter were controversial but looked good on the right b in the right place.

Apart from the exhibits there is an attractive paved garden with a disconcerting number of benches given in memory of people who died young – puzzling until you discover the history of the building. It was built as a Jewish school and later became Lighthouse, a hospice and care centre run by the Terence Higgins Trust for those suffering from AIDS. As medicine improved the need for the centre faded and in 2015 (only last year) the building was sold to the museum.

And finally, a café selling really good coffee. Altogether a most satisfying day out.



Honours

Congratulations to **Kay Brock**, appointed a CBE in the Birthday Honours List in June. She served as Chief of Staff and Strategy at Lambeth Palace from 2012 until her retirement earlier this year. Before that she had been Chief of Staff to six Lord Mayors of London and assistant Private Secretary to HM the Queen.

Congratulations also to **the Rt Revd Tim Stevens**. He has also been made a CBE, for services to the Church of England and to the community in Leicester. He served as Bishop of Dunwich from 1995 to 1999 and Bishop of Leicester from then until his retirement in 2015. As well as being the Bishop who kept Richard III in Leicester he was Convenor of the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords from 2009 to 2015, and as such was in frequent liaison with Church House and Lambeth.

Yet more congratulations to the Second Church Estates Commissioner, **Caroline Spelman MP**, who was made a DBE in August for political and public service. Speaking of his colleague, the First Commissioner, Sir Andreas Whittam Smith, said that she had "worked tirelessly to ensure both Church and State understand each other, and [she] encourages each to work together."

The Commissioners made the following announcement on 29 September 2016:

Sir Andreas Whittam Smith to step down from Church Commissioners

Sir Andreas Whittam Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner announced today his intention to step down from his current role following fifteen years' service. The decision will take effect at the next AGM of the Church Commissioners scheduled for June 2017.

The First Commissioner is the Chairman of the Church Commissioners' Assets Committee, a statutory committee responsible for the strategic management of the Church Commissioners' £7 billion investment portfolio. A Crown nomination, the First Commissioner is also a member of the Church Commissioners' Board of Governors, the General Synod and the Archbishops' Council.

Sir Andreas said:

“After fifteen years' service I think it appropriate and sensible to look towards an orderly handover to a successor. I am proud to be leaving the Church Commissioners at a time when we continue to enjoy robust and sustainable growth, while contributing in a substantial and meaningful way to the ongoing operation of the Church and its ministry.”

Responding to Sir Andreas's decision to retire, the Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Church Commissioners, commented:

“Andreas Whittam Smith has been an outstanding First Church Estates Commissioner. He has overseen the growth of the endowment and steered the organisation through numerous turbulent economic cycles, most notably the financial crisis of 2008. Under his leadership the Church Commissioners have led in responsible investment and in engaging with businesses on a wide range of economic and social issues.”

A successor to Sir Andreas will be announced in due course.



Gavin Oldham

Mr Gavin Oldham, a member of the General Synod for Oxford diocese and one of the Church Commissioners appointed by the Synod, was the subject of a full-page profile in the *Times* on 23 July. In it we read of his analysis of Brexit, his founding of The Share Centre, the insights he gained when working in an aircraft factory, the development of his faith, and how he sees his future.

On Brexit, and on the City of London, we read, “Brexit ... was a cry for help across the chasm that separates the haves from the have nots. The City ... has become a rather harsh place, where the driver of self-interest has not been well balanced by the understanding that we need to have a generosity to other people as well.”

Copies of the complete article are available from the editor on request.

Book Corner

Henry Smith – His Life & Legacy **by Lucy Lethbridge and Tim Wales**

When the Commissioners had residential estates in Chelsea and Kensington they adjoined the Kensington Estate of the Henry Smith Charity. Cluttons acted as agents for both, and Millbank staff attending estate meetings at the Cluttons office in Pelham Street would hear tales that showed that it was not only us who had, er, interesting lessees to deal with.

Henry Smith was a London salter who died in 1628. He made his fortune by lending money to the rich and famous, and at his death left a number of charitable bequests. The Charity that bears his name today distributes some £25 million a year, largely funding initiatives and projects that address social inequality and economic disadvantage. What became his principal legacy was one of £2,000, which he instructed his executors to spend on land. They bought a market garden, which today (through the Charity's astute development) is a large chunk of South Kensington.

The income from that £2,000 (£60 a year at first) was to be used for the relief of his poor kindred and 'for the use of the poor Captives being slaves under the Turkish pirates'. The latter was a real problem in the early 17th century: British ships were being captured and the crews enslaved by pirates or corsairs operating from North Africa, and people were even being snatched off the beaches of Devon and Cornwall. Between 1600 and 1640 an estimated 800 British ships and 12,000 Britons were captured in this way. Henry's bequest was for ransoms. In the 18th century, fortunately, no more such grants were needed, and Henry's Trustees won official approval for the use of that part of the bequest for other good causes.

The first trustees were appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and that is still the case today. Another bequest provided for the relief of poor clergy of the Church of England (originally 'for the relief and maintenance of godly preachers'), and grants from that are still available. Another

provided for annual grants to go to hundreds of named parishes, and that scheme continues today.

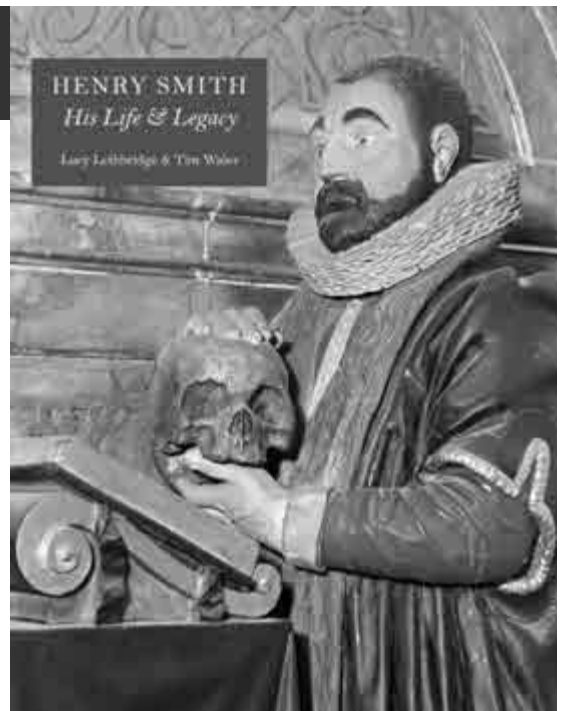
The original recipients were to

be the aged and infirm poor, 'married persons having more children born in lawful wedlock than their labours can maintain', orphans, and 'such poor people as keep themselves and families to labour and put forth their children apprentices at the age of fifteen.' Excluded were any given to 'excessive drinking, whoremongers, common swearers, pilferers, or otherwise notoriously scandalous', as well as disobedient servants and vagrants who had not lived in the parish for five years. A splendid benefaction board setting out all these conditions can be seen in Pershore Abbey in Worcestershire.

In 2015 the Charity published their history, which describes in detail Henry Smith's life, his will, and gives much interesting information about his first trustees, some of whom found themselves on opposite sides in the Civil War. The book then takes the history up to the present day, including how the Charity developed Kensington.

'Henry Smith His Life and Legacy' by Lucy Lethbridge & Tim Wales is available from the Church House Bookshop (online at <https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780993094507/henry-smith>) or ordered from booksellers and other online retailers. RRP £20. ISBN: 978-0-9930945-0-7 A declaration of interest: the editor of *Contact* did some of the research for the book.

A good Christmas present for someone interested in social history.



“Robin Stevens – Chelmsford – 276”

Robin Stevens writes:

My association with the General Synod began in January 1992 when I took up my appointment as the Central Stewardship Officer in the Central Board of Finance. From time to time I was ‘in attendance’ during the groups of sessions.

My baptism of fire came at the July group of sessions that year in York. On the Saturday the *Financial Times* chose to announce that the Church Commissioners had suffered losses worth £500 million in their property portfolio (later revised to £800 million!). Sir Douglas Lovelock was due to attend the Synod on the Monday for the budget debate and I was despatched to make a phone call to see if he could come up earlier. I had a vivid picture of the Spanish Armada some 400 years earlier when I was told that Sir Douglas was not available as he was playing croquet!

As a member of staff I was unable to address the Synod. In the late 1990s the rules changed so that a donor who was a tax payer could give any sum to charity by Gift Aid. The Synod, as was its custom, attended York Minster for Sunday morning worship and Gift Aid envelopes were not available – not good stewardship! Something needed to be said in Synod – but how? I managed to find a diocesan stewardship adviser who was a member of the synod and he stood at the start of the afternoon session on a point of order to make the case for the necessary envelopes. A year later the Minster had been converted and envelopes were available!

I had come to the Church of England from a career as an engineer in broadcast television. So when the opportunity for a spot of technological advance came along, I was the person to introduce PowerPoint to support the presentation on the annual budget. Some thought they had seen a miracle when bar charts started to animate before their very eyes. Of course there was anxiety in some quarters as to whether we should use this technology at all when it wasn't used in Parliament.

Then there was the introduction of electronic

voting. Each member now collects a module the size of a mobile phone and logs into it with their Synod pass. Votes that used to take almost half an hour while members filtered through the doors could now be held in under five minutes. The problem was soon discovered. With the old system, if a member hadn't been paying attention, they could see how their colleague voted and vote the same way. With the electronic keypad, you have to make your own mind up – scary!

When I retired in 2005 I was eligible to stand for election to the Synod. The STV system is a nerve-racking experience as the votes are re-allocated and one's fortunes go up and down. I was elected by 0.46 of a vote – sufficient in God's economy. Now I was able to stand to speak in debates and, occasionally, I was chosen. I had ten years as a member and was avid in my support of the movement towards women bishops.

A Synod tradition that I was happy to be a part of was that a revue was held on the Saturday night of the final group of sessions of each quinquennium. The Synod office staff always made a significant and hilarious

contribution and, just before I retired from the staff, I was asked to play a part. It seemed a good idea to do this in drag but there was concern that I looked like a caricature of a leading lay member of the Synod. I had to hire a ginger wig to avoid any confusion! [see picture]

Ten years later I was asked to organise the revue, which was a frightening experience as many who wanted to offer their party piece left it very late to tell me. We got a good review in the *Church Times* as the synod (and my time associated with it) “drew gleefully to a close”.



Chaplaincy at Church House

David Hanson writes:

Just as Church House has its chapel – it’s a little off the beaten track, but follow the trail of breadcrumbs and you will find it – it also has a chaplaincy team serving the National Church Institutions (NCIs). There are seven of us: men and women, ordained and lay, working in different departments around the building, helping with the chaplaincy alongside our regular day jobs.

Part of our role is pastoral. Each of us is available to staff, of all faiths and none, who might just want to talk over a personal matter in confidence. We will listen, we won’t judge, and we will offer emotional and spiritual support, and prayer if that is what is wanted. Of course, we are not the only support network staff have: there are friends, colleagues, management, and the unions. But sometimes, where none of those is the right resource, we might be.

We also look after services of prayer and worship in the chapel. There is morning prayer every Monday and a lunchtime Eucharist on Wednesdays. Attendance varies – Monday mornings rarely pull in the crowds - but it is very good to have a space where the prayer requests and concerns of the whole NCI community are held. There is a weekly *Pause for Prayer* e-bulletin in which these can be included. The chapel is open for prayer at all times.

There are special services for Advent and Easter. These take place either in Church House or Lambeth Palace chapel and are often led by one of the archbishops. There are Christmas carols,

and services for Ash Wednesday and Remembrance. In many of these the Deansbank Singers, the NCIs’ long-standing choir, play a full part.

But the chapel’s role as a place of welcome goes beyond marking the church year. It has recently hosted informal lunchtime talks by Christians in public life that have attracted many staff, with speakers including ex-Communards singer and radio host Revd Richard Coles, Kate Bottley [pictured] of *Gogglebox* fame, and Rose Hudson-



Wilkin, chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. And it is always a great pleasure to welcome friends and former colleagues to the chapel at the NCIs’ annual staff pensioners’ reunion.

With Advent upon us the chapel is about to be busy once again; but at quiet times too it offers a space for prayer which, at least for some, is at the heart of our work here at Church House. Long may that continue.



Richard Hore retires after nearly 49 years' service

Richard Hore retired from his post as Office Services Manager in July. He was then the longest serving member of staff in the NCIs. He gave this interview to the Church House newsletter All Staff.

What's your earliest memory of working for the Church?

That would be my interview with the Church Commissioners at Millbank in September 1967 (aged 16). There was no specific job advertised, you were taken on and placed in a department, then offered moves to broaden your experience.

I first came to Church House for a three month job swap in 1998. I moved permanently to Church House in 2000, when the Archbishops' Council was established and IT and Office Services were transferred to the new body.

What achievement are you most proud of?

Surviving this long, although there are one or two not that far behind me.

Can you tell us about how you met your wife Debbie from the Research and Statistics team?

Christmas Party 2006 (see Chris, it's not unusual!). We had seen each other before that but hadn't really spoken. Our respective circumstances were such that it was a while

before we became closer and we both needed time.

Who do you think will finish higher up the league table

next season? Your team - West Ham, or Debbie's - Chelsea?

I don't make predictions about football but surely with all that money behind them, Chelsea should win it every year? At least they now have a down-to-earth and unemotional manager.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Study harder at school, go to university and get a degree in a solid professional subject. Looking back I would like to have been an architect.

How are you planning to spend your time?

Doing worthwhile things but knowing I am not tied to a full time job any more. My father-in-law wants me to take up fishing and clay-pigeon shooting.

Do you have a message for your colleagues?

Bye-bye, I'll be thinking of you.



Plans for New Lambeth Palace Library Building

Declan Kelly, Director of Libraries, Archives and Information Services, writes:

In early September the Church Commissioners unveiled designs for a new building to house the internationally significant Lambeth Palace Library. Architects Wright & Wright were awarded the commission to design the new library building following a highly competitive design competition in 2015.

The Lambeth Palace Library was one of the first public libraries in England following Archbishop Bancroft's bequest of his collection to his successors 1610. It is widely held to be one of the most important collections of its kind in the world. At present the collection of books and manuscripts, some dating back to the 9th Century, is considered to be at risk having outgrown its existing accommodation in the Grade 1 Listed Lambeth Palace buildings. The new library is intended to be built in the grounds of Lambeth Palace, the historic London residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury. It will provide state-of-the-art archival facilities, enabling the ongoing conservation and storage of this unique collection of historic manuscripts and books. The new building will also significantly improve public access to the library as intended by Archbishop Bancroft in his original bequest of 1610.

Joining the existing Lambeth collections in the new library will be the remainder of the archives of the National Church, currently housed at the Church of England Record Centre in Bermondsey. The Record Centre core collections date from 1704, following the creation of Queen Anne's Bounty. The material reflects the evolving organisation of the Church of England and the multitude of roles the Church played in the social, religious and economic history of England and Wales, as well covering colonial history and the Anglican Church abroad.

The new library will therefore bring together the archives of the National Church into a single

building designed to protect, preserve and make them accessible for future generations. It will also aim to be a building which is as environmentally friendly as possible in its construction and use.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The plans for the new Lambeth Palace Library are exciting. They enable us to preserve this important national collection while increasing accessibility, within a building that is a fitting architectural addition to the grounds and surrounding area."

Wright & Wright is an award-winning architectural practice based in London. The practice focuses on creating contemporary yet sensitive solutions for museums, libraries, archives and educational institutions. Its list of distinguished clients includes the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the V&A, the Royal College of Art and the National Gallery. Recent projects include the Taylor Library at Corpus Christi College Cambridge and a new library for Magdalen College Oxford.

Clare Wright, architect Wright & Wright, said: "The commission to design a building of such resonance, emblematic of the historic relationship between Church and State, sited in the garden of Lambeth Palace, is a dream come true. We are deeply honoured; and delighted to be working on this at the peak of our careers."

Design of the new building

The elegant contemporary brick building takes its design cues from the gate tower of the neighbouring Tudor Lambeth Palace buildings and emerges seamlessly from the red brick perimeter wall of the Palace gardens.

The single storey building rises to a well-proportioned 8-storey tower, the form acknowledging the historically defensive nature of buildings which create an entrance to the otherwise secure Palace gardens. The simple tower form enables the reduction of the building footprint to the minimum necessary for the

operation of the library, and, for the first time in recent history, elevates the entire collection above the flood plain, guaranteeing its safety from any future flood risk. The sealed stores protect the collections from pollution and maintain them to current archival standards.

A glazed and bronze entrance allows passers-by views of the Palace gardens beyond as well as embodying the aspiration for the building to deliver a new era of accessibility to the library collection.

Inside the building, public spaces and reading rooms are flooded with natural light providing tranquil views across the enlarged pond to the gardens beyond. The building also creates a new physical barrier between the busy Lambeth Road and the gardens, significantly reducing noise and air pollution in the Palace gardens.

At the top of the library tower, a multi-functional seminar, meeting and viewing space is created, allowing direct views across the river Thames to the Palace of Westminster, reinforcing the historic connection between church and state.

Timetable

Following the public consultation and subject to further discussions with local planning officers, a planning application for the library is expected to be submitted to London Borough of Lambeth in early 2017. Construction is anticipated through to early 2020 with moving in and opening towards the end of that year. The building of the library will be funded by the Church Commissioners, who own and maintain the library.



Walk in Clerkenwell - 31st August 2016

Colin Bullen writes:

On a very pleasant day a small group of us were taken on a tour of the Clerkenwell area by Linda Kendrick's sister Elaine, although chaos on Southeastern trains delayed the start somewhat. It was surprising just how much of historical interest one can find in this area, from associations with literary figures and commercial success stories, to links to some of the most radical figures in European history.

We began at Farringdon tube station, which has the distinction of being the very first underground station in the world, while the Metropolitan line, of which it was one terminus, gave its name to the Metros which are now found in Paris, Moscow and other world cities. Our first stop was in Saffron Hill, an area once famous for its eponymous agricultural product, near to the 'One Tun' pub which Dickens used as the fictitious meeting place of Fagin and Bill Sykes. From here we walked through to Hatton Garden, with its many gold and jewellery shops, being able to see the site of the recent major robbery conducted by a group of pensioners. Hatton was one of the courtiers of Elizabeth I and several roads in the area reflect how much was once part of his property. An interesting fact was that at one time Huguenot exiles from France established a number of watchmaker businesses in the area but an ill advised tax imposed by the government led to most moving to Geneva, causing a considerable loss of wealth for Clerkenwell (perhaps a warning to the EU over persecuting US companies!).

We moved on to Leather Lane, near to which still stands the building in which the famous tobacco product 'Old Holborn' was once produced. So many Italians once lived around this locale that the area became known as 'Little Italy', but the effects of the internments of enemy aliens during the Second World War greatly affected the numbers, over two hundred being tragically drowned when exiled via ship to Canada, which was torpedoed by their allies, the Germans. Just along from the pub called 'The Clerk and Well' is

the area known as 'Mount Pleasant', an ironic name given to it by locals as it was in fact the site of a major rubbish tip.

We walked down Eyre Street Hill, which contains some of those small, specialist businesses, such as an organ builder, which are very unusual and not to be found in most towns. Nearby is the birthplace of the writer of the song which Gracie Fields made her own 'Sally in our Alley'. There is also a grating in front of a recently closed pub where one can actually hear the old Fleet river, still running after all these centuries buried beneath the streets. In fact the whole area contains many pubs, such as the 'Betsy Trotwood' and 'The City Place', all of which look very inviting. Although we were not able to enter the building we could look through the window at the original "Clerk's Well", after which the area is named. Parish clerks from the city used to perform plays based on scripture nearby and the well had provided fresh water from the 12th century onwards.

Nearly at the end of the walk we stopped in Clerkenwell Green, which has always had a reputation for being a hotbed of radical thought, both religious and political. In 1381 Wat Tyler and his supporters camped here during the Peasants Revolt, in the 19th century Karl Marx founded a Workers Association in the Welsh School, Lenin created the publication '20th Century Press' while, in the 1850s, the world's first Workers' May Day March started here. The Tolpuddle Martyrs were tried in the Middlesex Sessions House in the Green and eventually all public meetings were banned in the area during the 19th century. At one point agitators got round the problem of not being able to sell leaflets by giving them away to anyone who bought a straw, and counting how many of the latter they had sold, thus originating the term 'straw polls'.

John Wilkes, the author of 'On Liberty', was tried here for sedition. A little known fact is that later one of his family, although not a direct descendant, was John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. Religious figures

associated with the area included George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, and John Wesley, the founder, with his brother, of the Methodists.

Just before the end of the tour we saw a converted commercial building, now a residence, once owned by Janet Street-Porter, which had formed part of the gentrification of Clerkenwell, a process of which she was one of the first leaders. Finally we looked at the garden of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, although, as one of our previous trips had been to that organisation's headquarters, we did not extend our visit.

All in all it was an excellent tour and it is a shame that Elaine is retiring from leading such trips. We are grateful to her for all the enjoyable walks she has led over the years.

Elaine Beckett

The Clerkenwell walk was the last led by Elaine Beckett, the professional guide who has taken us round Paddington, Mayfair, Marylebone, King's Cross, Smithfield, etc. She is stepping down from that work. Those of us who have been on these walks kept on coming on them because for us she made even unprepossessing streets become interesting and full of history and incident. We very much appreciate the way she led these walks, and the wealth of historical and current detail she shared with us in her entertaining and informative way. After the Clerkenwell walk a number of us regulars clubbed together and sent her a book token, which she will use to add to her already impressive collection of guide books.

Thanks, Elaine!

POSSIBLE VISIT TO OSTERLEY PARK AND HOUSE IN APRIL 2017

Maureen Webb writes:

Osterley Park is a rare surviving Georgian estate in London and is administered by the National Trust.

I visited the property for the first time earlier this year and can attest to the beauty of the 18th century interiors and the splendid gardens, weather permitting, of course.

Osterley Park is
half a mile from the Piccadilly Line (Osterley),
by bus H28 Hayes to Hounslow or
H91 Hounslow to Hammersmith.

There is, of course, parking at the estate and the sat nav uses the code TW7 4RD. If you are a NT member, entry is free; otherwise check prices on 020 8232 5050.

If there is a group interested in visiting in spring, then I will gather names and try to find a suitable date. There is a good restaurant for lunch. If you could give someone else a lift in your car to the house from, say, the station or underground station, I am sure we could put you in touch with one another.

I can be contacted on maureenwebb39@gmail.com or 01372 463524.



Visit to the Globe Theatre on 17 June 2016

Colin Bullen writes:

On the 17th June a group of us went on what was advertised as a tour of the Globe and the associated exhibition. To say that it was a disappointment would be an understatement. The guide did her best but in effect we saw no more than any of us who have attended performances have seen countless times.

To begin with, despite the fact that I had exchanged emails with them to establish the correct entrance charge, the figure they had given me was incorrect and I had to take time to rectify the amounts I had collected from those attending.

Once we started, apart from a brief history of the theatres in Southwark, and a description of some of the architectural features of the building, all we saw was a technical rehearsal for *Macbeth* taking place on the stage, but we were warned that neither we nor the guide must speak while in the auditorium.

When Bernadette and I have been on tours of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the National Theatre on the South Bank and many opera houses in Europe, we were taken to the rehearsal rooms, the props department, the costume department and other areas where the public cannot gain access, even if attending a



Some of those who attended

performance. However we saw none of these on the Globe tour. Neither were we taken to the Sam Wanamaker theatre, which is an important part of the complex.

Those who visited the Exhibition after the tour will have received slightly better value for money, as it is quite good, but even then the guide did not, until I asked, make clear that we could, and should do so. I suspect that some may have drifted off before she did.

This was undoubtedly the worst trip to a theatre I have known and the Globe has a cheek to charge as much as they do for a quite inadequate tour.



Tom Edwards

Bruce Thomas Edwards died on 11 May 2016. He is survived by his widow Jennifer. He had worked in the Statistics Department in Church House.

Mike Meur writes:

“I worked with Tom (as he was known) in the Research & Statistics Department, he was the IT man there for something in the region of 10 years or so I think, until about 2005. He was a member of the Deansbank Singers in which he sang Tenor. He was a very sociable character, always ready for a laugh and a joke, which sometimes landed him in a bit of hot water. Previous to his work in the NCI he worked for many years in an insurance company on the IT side. His one claim to fame is that his widow is Ken Clarke’s sister!”

Colin Bullen writes:

“I did not have much to do with Tom over work matters but spent many a lunchtime with him in the bar of *The Speaker* where a group of us put the world to rights over a few beers. Tom was always one of the first to buy the drinks and was a jovial companion. Although he was very intelligent, having been educated at Oxford, he was also very much one of the lads, a devoted Rugby fan and fond of good company. On one occasion we were joined by his brother-in-law, a certain Kenneth Clarke MP. As the latter is a well-known Europhile and I was one of the founders of UKIP it was wise to keep off the subject of politics and he proved very similar to Tom in liking a beer and a chat. I will miss Tom’s friendly presence in the pub and remember him as a jolly good chap.”

Ian Adam

Ian Adam died on 5 June, at the age of 87. Ian was the Commissioners’ Deputy Investments Manager from December 1970 to March 1980. In his time he had also been a Deputy Lieutenant and a Justice of the Peace.

Carol Archard writes:

“I was a young girl when Ian Adam came to the Investments department as our Deputy Investments Secretary. Alastair McDonald, Investments Secretary at that time, called our department a ‘family’ and he fitted in well and added so much, with his generosity, humour together with his vast knowledge of the stock market.

I recall how very proud we were that on 7 December 1978 the Queen and Prince Philip came to the Church Commissioners on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary and that they visited our department.

My overall impression of him was of an impeccable gentleman who gave so much not just to the Church but to the wider community i.e. he was a special constable, a JP and the Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey.”

Tony Gibson writes:

“Ian Adam was a true City gent of the old school - always impeccably turned-out, with beautiful manners and a ready smile. He was a delightful colleague through both thick and thin: setbacks never affected his public stoicism and generosity of spirit.”

Professor Anthony Mellows OBE TD

Professor Anthony Mellows died on 10 January 2016, aged 79. Professor Mellows was a member of the Archbishops’ Millennium Advisory Group, and he chaired the Archbishops’ Review of Bishops’ Needs and Resources, appointed in 1999. That Review produced the reports *Resourcing Bishops* (2001) and *Resourcing Archbishops* (2002), and led to changes in the way the funding

of Bishops’ ministry was administered.

He was appointed OBE in 2003 for services to the Church of England. He had a distinguished academic legal career, and was Lord Prior of the Order of St John. He was also Vice-Chairman of the HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation.

The Revd John Lee

The Revd John Lee died on 27 September 2016 at the age of 68. John was the Clergy Appointments Adviser from 1998 to 2015, operating out of Fielden House and then Church House. Before taking up the CAA post he had been priest-in-charge and then rector of Chiddingstone with Chiddingstone Causeway in the diocese of Rochester, from 1984 to 1998. Since 2010 he was also a Chaplain to the Queen, and the Queen was represented at his funeral at Chiddingstone on 7 October.

John Clark (Director for Mission and Public Affairs 2003-2007) writes:

I was saddened to hear of the death of John Lee, whom I first met in 1998 at the beginning of his time as Clergy Appointments Adviser, when I was Secretary of the Partnership for World Mission (the forum for the Church of England's world mission agencies and the central church structures). I initially went to see him because the world mission agencies wanted to encourage the appointment of clergy from overseas to posts in England to bring their experience to this country.

We struck up a friendship as we shared what our roles involved and the thinking behind them. Our occasional conversations ranged much more widely when we discovered mutual interests in Welsh and Irish rugby and South East London as we shared a bit about our own origins in those countries and life in London. John had been born in the west of Ireland, adopted and brought up in a conservative evangelical church in Orpington (at which I had once preached). It had been noted for the number of vocations to ordination the vicar had encouraged.

John had gone on to study marine science at Swansea University (a city where he was later to serve as a curate). He supported Ireland (from which one line of my forebears had come) and I supported Wales (my country of birth) - so in 2005 when Wales won the grand slam against

Ireland in Cardiff, at which I was lucky to be present, he watched the match in Dublin and we shared congratulations and commiserations.

I discovered he had trained at Ripon Hall, become assistant priest at St Botolph's Bishopsgate and trained as a psychotherapist and group analyst. Although critical of institutional religion, he was prepared to work at the heart of an institution to bring his gifts to bear on those who came to him, using his training and wide experience to provide advice and pastoral support to clergy who came to him to discuss possible future appointments (a role much appreciated by those I know who went to him).

But he was also a cross country runner (eight London marathons), a hill walker and a rock climber. After my wife and I had visited the remarkable monastic settlement on Skellig Michael, nine miles off the coast of Kerry, he told me that he had climbed on several occasions to the topmost peak up a sheer rock face to sit in silence - a feat few climbers have managed.

There is much more that could be said about him for John was not someone who could be easily categorised. In conversation I always found that there were new and often surprising insights that would come from his wide experience, deep exploration of his own inner world and his knowledge of God. I remember our meetings with gratitude and news of his death from cancer at the age of 68 came as a shock."

In his obituary of John that appeared in the *Church Times* on 21 October *Bishop Tim Stevens* wrote that as CAA John "was assiduous in travelling the country, and writing careful, detailed and honest accounts of his interviews with the clergy. These came to be valued by bishops, who felt that they summarised accurately and incisively the strengths and weaknesses of the clergy.



Sheila Branchett

Sheila Branchett died on 28 October, at the age of 87. She joined the Commissioners in 1973, working in Establishment Department. In 1978 she moved to the First Floor, becoming secretary to the First Church Estates Commissioner, serving Sir Ronald Harris and then Sir Douglas Lovelock, and subsequently also to the Third Estates Commissioner, Mrs Betsy Haworth. She retired in 1989. She lived in Bromley, and her last job was as Practice Manager at her local GP surgery.

Richard Hopgood writes:

I remember her as a calm and friendly person who never put on airs and graces but was very dedicated to her job.

Desmond Day recalls her as a friendly colleague, and able to hold her own on the 'First Floor' at Millbank.

Maureen Webb writes:

"Sheila was working for Sir Douglas Lovelock when I joined the Commissioners. She had previously worked for Sir Ronald Harris. She was very helpful to me in settling in as secretary to the Deputy Secretary. Among her efficiencies was her excellence in filing, always desirable in a PA! When she retired, we kept in touch through birthday and Christmas cards. She loved her cat or cats and they provided companionship through her illnesses."

Ed Peacock writes:

"She was a friend and a conscientious, loyal and hard-working secretary. At her funeral at Beckenham Crematorium on 21 November tribute was paid to her lifetime of service to her Church and her community. She was a great fan of detective serials and at the committal, as the coffin was lowered out of sight, we listened to the theme from 'Inspector Morse'. It worked very well - indeed, it brought a lump in my throat. If you listen to it on YouTube you may see what I mean!"

Copies of the eulogy given at her funeral are available from the editor on request.

"In 2007, he chaired a working group about the final ten years of licensed ministry, whose report was *From Frustration to Fulfilment*. It contained many practical suggestions for ensuring that the final years of stipendiary ministry remain fulfilling and rewarding for its clergy, and in consequence for lay people as well.

"John was reluctant to accept any form of preferment, choosing to keep his feet rooted in the soil on which most of the clergy stood. He was, however, delighted to have been appointed Chaplain to the Queen, reflecting his affection for the Established Church under the Crown."

Copies of the full text of the *Church Times* obituary are available from the editor on request.

Valerie Cooper

Valerie (Val) Cooper passed away on 3 November 2016. She had joined the Commissioners in August 1973. She worked in the machine room in the Computer Department, later becoming one of the Commissioners' telephonists. She retired in March 1999. Old Millbank staffers will know Val's sister, Avril Squires.

Margaret Foster

In October we learned of the death of **Miss Margaret M Foster**, aged 97. She worked at Church House for the then Central Board of Finance, in a secretarial role, from 1961 to 1983. She was one of ten siblings, four of whom survive her.

Margaret died on 21 October in Woodlands Nursing Home in Burgess Hill, in West Sussex, where she had lived for the last five years since the death of her brother who had shared a house in Hove with her.

New Deputy Chair of Board of Governors

On 3 October the Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, was announced as the new Deputy Chair of the Church Commissioners' Board of Governors. The appointment was made by the Archbishop of Canterbury who by arrangement appoints a deputy to attend the meetings in his place. The appointment is effective from 1 January 2017.

Bishop David replaces the Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, who is retiring from his bishopric in February and who has served as a Commissioner since 1999.

Floods and wildlife at Bishopthorpe

Readers may remember that last winter around 16,000 homes were flooded, after Storms Desmond, Eva and Frank devastated many parts of Northern England, including Cumbria, Leeds, Greater Manchester, and the City of York. York, and Bishopthorpe in particular, are of course no strangers to this, and the Palace saw flooding in the grounds and in the undercroft. Specimen trees suffered. A combination of high winds and roots being under water caused three large trees to fall, damaging smaller trees and shrubs as they fell. One tree, a black poplar, fell into Warren Pond, a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre pond in the Palace grounds.



Among the more bizarre items swept into the grounds by the flooding, along with the usual litter and branches from trees from further upstream, were an industrial wheelie bin which came in handy for the litter collecting, and six beer kegs, alas all empty!

*Adapted from an article by
Garry O'Reagan,
the Head Gardener at Bishopthorpe*

E-mail and postal addresses

Those of our readers on e-mail will have noticed that the last issue was distributed electronically. This was because of the substantial and avoidable cost of sending out paper copies. If this came as a disappointment, we're sorry about that!

It follows, of course, that if your e-mail address changes you won't see *Contact* unless you notify us of your new address. Nor will you

necessarily see it if our e-mail goes straight unto your junk folder, so do look out for it there. The next *Contact* will, we hope, appear next June.

We recognise that you won't be reading this if your e-mail address has already changed, or the new *Contact* is nestling unseen in your junk folder amidst amazing investment offers, suggested rendezvous with gorgeous Russian beauties, or advice that your

double-glazing programme really isn't complete. In which case ...

If you have e-mail but haven't told us, could we ask you to do so? That would help save us money. If you haven't got e-mail, fine, don't worry, you'll still get your printed copy. If you move, do remember to tell us your new address. Please don't assume we'll automatically know it!

Ed Peacock

All these notifications should go to Matt Chamberlain, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ; e-mail matt.chamberlain@churchofengland.org.

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