



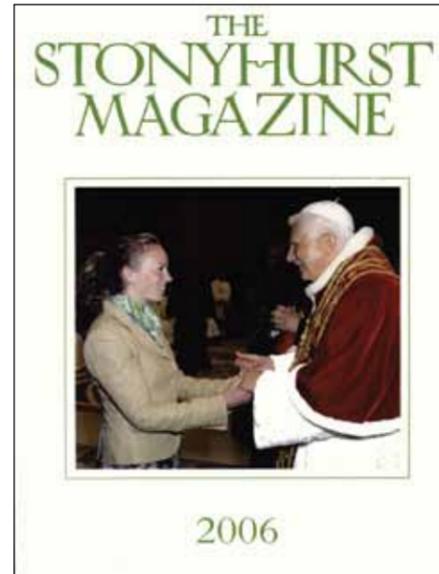
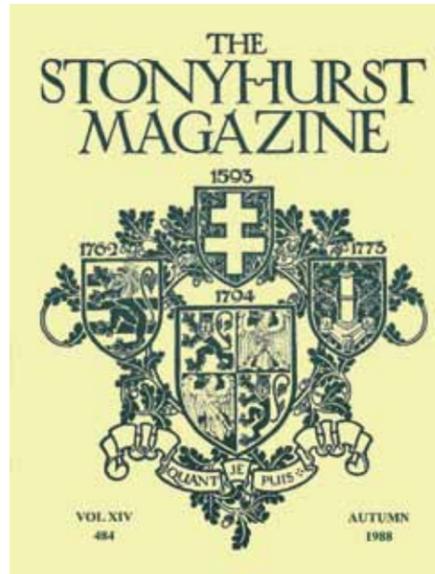
STONYHURST ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER 298

AMDG

FEBRUARY 2009





The Stonyhurst Magazine was founded in 1881. Until 1935 there were six issues per year. Between 1935 and 1957 the number varied between three and six. From 1958 to 1975 there were three issues per year. From 1976 to 1986 there were two, since then only one.

Copies of most back issues from 1881 to the present time are still available. They can be purchased at £5.00 per copy, including postage/packing, from the Editor (for details, see below).

Today's Magazine contains almost 100 pages of illustrated and fascinating articles, all with a historical Stonyhurst connection, in addition to a full report on the year's activities, obituaries of former pupils etc. It will keep you entertained for hours!

To purchase a copy of the 2008 edition, please send a cheque for £10.00 (payable to 'Stonyhurst Magazine') to: The Editor, The Stonyhurst Magazine, Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ.

To enrol as a subscriber, please email association@stonyhurst.ac.uk for an application form.

Front Cover:

The torchlight procession to the Basilica of Our Lady of Lourdes (copyright : © Sanctuaires de Lourdes / VINCENT)

Back Cover:

The Lady Altar outside the Boys' Chapel, Stonyhurst



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LOURDES 150TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

IF CHRIST CAME TO TURN THE world upside down, Bernadette, that stalwart by whom Lourdes is now known throughout the world, is another example of his amazing aptitude to choose the right people to be vehicles of his grace. Bernadette was the antithesis of worldly power; small, frail, illiterate, living in absolute poverty in the Cachot (the town gaol). The transformational force of the messages that she passed to us reflects the power of the gospel. Lourdes is an upside down place, where the 'malades' are carried or pushed at the front of all the liturgies and processions, where so called "broken humanity" is promoted to smile bravely and triumphantly in the Pyrennean sunshine. An iconic memory of the place is the constant flow of brancardiers and handmaids bobbing in and out of the lines of wheelchairs and stretchers with water, blankets, sunshades, waterproofs. The last is first.

Pedro Arrupe arrived in Lourdes as a medical student but left to become a Jesuit. His life was transformed, and he challenged us also, as Jesuit alumni, to transform our lives. To him, a Jesuit education that was not an education for justice was deficient. By justice, Arrupe meant first a basic respect for all which forbids the use of others as instruments for our own profit; second, a firm resolve not to profit passively from the active oppression of others and which refuses to be a silent beneficiary of injustice; third, a decision to work with others towards dismantling unjust social structures, so as to set free those who are weak and marginalised.

Lourdes, with Arrupe's other experiences of life, led him to preach and live this upside down message with extraordinary clarity. If the annual Lourdes pilgrimage is truly to be an emblematic "Stonyhurst event", we as an Association must strive to live out the challenge of Lourdes, of justice, in our activities through the rest of the year. Please take time to look at our "Committee notes", and do make a contribution to our efforts.

That the Grotto can draw six million pilgrims a year to experience that transforming power in action is no surprise when you are there. When you are not, it is hard to describe, and even harder to remain true to. That is the miracle and challenge of Lourdes. People return year after year "to drink at the spring and wash themselves in it", to sup at that very human table, to give, to laugh, to love, to live life as it should be lived.

Petite Bernadette, who thought of herself as quite ordinary and unimportant, lit a fuse, and then, after doing her bit, withdrew into the obscurity of a convent. Every contribution helps; as someone once said, if you feel too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito!

That power has affected many.

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DIARY OF EVENTS

Details will be published on the website (www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/association.shtml);
email association@stonyhurst.ac.uk with any queries

February 25th – 3rd March

COLLEGE VISIT TO MEXICO

On the 27th the Headmaster, Andrew Johnson, will host a reception at the Four Seasons Hotel. All OS, parents and their families are very welcome to attend. For catering purposes please advise the Association Office if you plan to attend. (Four Seasons Hotel, Paseo de la Reforma 500, Colonia Juárez, Mexico DF).

March 22nd 2009

PILGRIM PATHFINDERS WALK

Meet at the Lions after Sunday mass. Further details from emma.wotton1@btinternet.com.

[March – The Edinburgh Convivium that was planned to take place in March has had to be postponed, we hope to rearrange it for the Christmas term.]

April 26th – 27th 2009

SPORTING WEEKEND

The annual Sporting Weekend will take place at the College, and there will be rugby, soccer, cricket, golf, hockey and netball played. If any OS would like to play in a team, then please contact the Wanderers' representatives whose details are below. On Saturday evening there will be a buffet supper in the Top Ref, and all those who have played will be welcome to attend, along with the pupils and staff who have been involved.

Rugby: MARCO VAGHETTI
email: vaghetti586@hotmail.com

Soccer: ROB EATOUGH
email: robeatough@hotmail.com

Cricket: RICHARD DRINKWATER
email: richard@finessconsultants.co.uk

Golf: PAUL HARBEN
email: paul@harben.fslife.co.uk

Hockey: CHARLOTTE DUGDALE
charlotte.dugdale@luptonfawcett.com

Netball: JESS MACFARLANE
email: jessmacfarlane@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively please contact Jonathan Smith at the Association Office at: j.smith@stonyhurst.ac.uk

May 1st – 4th 2009

1957 – 1963 REUNION, STONYHURST

A reunion for those who left in 1959 and their contemporaries—all 57-63 leavers are invited, along with wives and partners. Please email the Association Office for a booking form, or contact Michael Joseph at michael@kenmoregroup.co.uk or Edward Gonsalves at edward_gonsalves@yahoo.com

May 2009

ASSOCIATION AGM

As previously announced the date and time of the AGM, along with the Annual Report and Accounts will be published on the website.

May 10th 2009

PILGRIM PATHFINDERS WALK

Info as above.

May 17th 2009

STONYHURST PILGRIMAGE TRUST

Trustees Meeting and Lourdes Reunion, at Stonyhurst.

May 22nd 2009

GREAT ACADEMIES CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

At the College.

June 3rd 2009

LONDON CONVIVIUM

The arrangements will be published on the College website.

June 14th 2009

PILGRIM PATHFINDERS WALK

Info as above.

June 17th 2009

NORTH WEST CONVIVIUM

At the College, Mass in the College Chapel followed by a buffet on the Front Lawns.

July 22nd-27th 2009

WITNESSES TO HOPE

7th Congress of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae in Burundi. In 2010 the British Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress will be held 9th-11th April at Exeter College, Oxford.

July 31st 2009

FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS

Jesuit Alumni/ae Masses at Farm Street, St Wilfrid's in Preston and other Jesuit parishes.

August 21st – 28th 2009

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

If you would like to take part this year please email Beverley Sillitoe at association@stonyhurst.ac.uk for booking forms and information.

October 10th – 11th 2009

1987 REUNION, STONYHURST

A reunion for those OS who left in 1987 is being organised by Richard Veys (richard.veys@alliumtrx.com).

October 31st 2009

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER, STONYHURST

At the College. President, Dr Barry O'Driscoll OS 54-60.

November 15th 2009

STONYHURST PILGRIMAGE TRUST MEETING, STONYHURST

December 2009

SLOANE SQUARE CAROLS

Date to be confirmed.

December 2009

CAROL SERVICE, STONYHURST

Date to be confirmed.

POETRY 1979

Poetry '79 leavers and those who were in that year are invited to contact Matthew Power (matthew.power@jesuits.net), Andrew McParland (andrew@parlisonproperties.co.uk) or Gerry Lagerberg (gerry.j.lagerberg@uk.pwc.com) for news of plans to mark the 30th anniversary of leaving the College. Ideas being explored include a summer reunion and fundraising for an OS 79 College bursary.

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHS

Conor Hill OS 94-99 and his wife Charity had their first child, Sophia Margaret on 13th May 2008.

Nicholas Burnet OS 88-94 and his wife Emma had their first child, Poppy April Sally, on 18th November 2008, in Edinburgh.

Richard Record OS 92-97 and his wife Khanh had a son, Francis An Duong Record, on 22 July 2008. Francis joins James An Phi Record, who was born on 27 July 2007. Richard and family are currently posted with the World Bank country office in Vientiane, Laos.

James Brotherton OS 82-87 and his wife Rachel had a son, Oliver James on 27th November 2008.

Drs **Adam OS 87-95** and **Caroline Farmer** had a son, William Adam, born on 29th November 2008.

Christopher Franke OS 88-93 and his wife Claire had a daughter, Sophia, on 26 February 2008.

MARRIAGES

Gerard Brumby OS 90-95 was married on 8th August 2008 to Jennifer Franke, a cousin of **Christopher Franke OS 88-93**, at the Church of the Holy Family, Langley (below).



Ged was supported by **Dr Adam Farmer** and **Ben Pryor OS 90-95**. Other OS present included: **Dr Nicholas Newton OS 90-95**, **Luke Pryor OS 91-96**, **Anthony Jarrett OS 87-92**, **Rupert Bell OS 81-86**, **Richard Wotton OS 78-88** and **Tom Lorrimer OS 77-86**.



Above: On Saturday 27th September 2008 the marriage of **Sarah Knight OS 87-89** to Dr Lawrence Alger took place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, followed by a sightseeing tour of London and Reception at the Middle Temple.



OS guests included (l to r) **Nick Murray-Ferguson OS 80-88**, **Dom Medley OS 79-89** and **Ben Halligan OS 85-90**.

DIAMOND WEDDING

Paul Carton OS 1930-1937 and his wife Naomi celebrated sixty years of marriage on 25th September 2008, with a Mass of thanksgiving at St George's Catholic Church, Taunton.

IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following OS has been received since the last issue of the Newsletter.

Dr Gerald Lynch Burgess
OS 23 – 30

Norman Albert Armstrong
Associate Member

Richard John Anthony Rotter
OS 44 – 52

Richard Brunel Hawes
OS 33 – 45

Henry Sydney Edwin Lee
OS 48 – 58

David Francis De Caires
OS 49 – 55

David John Bourke
OS 39 – 44

Ian Alsop Chisholm
OS 30 – 40

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Friends or relatives, who wish to write the usual obituary for the Stonyhurst Magazine, are invited to contact David Knight at the College.

VALETE

After six years as Chairman of the Association, followed by service on the Committee, **Michael Joseph** has finally decided to retire.

His period in office coincided with a considerable expansion in the activities of the Association which has prospered under his guidance, with many more events on the calendar and serious demand for more. He proved a source of inspiration and ideas and in the arts of gentle persuasion he had few equals. His polished politeness with just a hint of steel could be relied on to get things done and was very useful in keeping committee meetings on course to carry out the business of the day.

Since March 2001 when he became Chairman, a calendar of events has become established comprising usually, two reunions a year and three convivia, a sporting weekend for matches between the College and the Wanderers, and of course the Annual Dinner. Apart from this, there have been special initiatives like the visit to Bruges and Flanders in 2002 and he was instrumental in organising the refurbishment of the Sodality Chapel. As a swan song, he is currently busy with the arranging of a 50 year reunion at the College in May.

The Association has enormous cause to be grateful to him and the patience and hospitality of his wife Frances, who made committee meetings at their house a pleasure. We thank them warmly and wish them well.

CORRESPONDENCE & MISCELLANY

Sean Keegan OS 66-71 wrote recently to cancel his mailings as he was moving to the Galapagos and he did not think they would find him. However we believe that we can get to places where others cannot reach and will give it a try. He is setting up a tour business there and at the moment, he says 'the land we are building on is just a pile of rocks and cactus. But the view is gorgeous!'

For anyone inclined to visit the far side of the world, the address is: Sean and Maria Elena Keegan Ricaurte Isla San Cristobal Galapagos Ecuador, SA and email: SK@SeanKeegan.com

For adventure of a kind closer to home, you might consider the Rutland Arms at Bakewell, Derbyshire, run by **David Donegan OS 54-61**, who says he was once a wealthy solicitor and is now an impoverished innkeeper. Nearby is excellent walking country and Chatsworth and Haddon Hall. 'The 200 year-old Rutland Arms has a lot to offer. Byron, Coleridge, Wordsworth and Turner stayed here', says the *Daily Telegraph* who also put it on a par with Fawlty Towers. Six years ago, David decided to cash in on its quirky charms with a high risk marketing strategy. He described it as 'dingy' and advised guests to bring a stomach pump and said it was 'a lovely place where dust settles like snow on the threadbare carpets'. It may have worked: he is still there and we hope, thriving. Tel 01629 812812 and www.rutlandarmsbakewell.co.uk.

One New Year guest to brave the eccentricities of the establishment was his brother **John OS 53-58**, one of our regular correspondents, passing on news of friends. He enjoys translating ancient Latin texts and also studies musical works. His present magnum opus is 'Due Sicilie' 1734 - 1860.

Not content with one musical Vision to their credit, **Jonathan Smith OS 82-87** and **Dominic Hartley OS 77-86** (see p20) have recently completed their next project, *Crunch: the Musical*, a tragic-comic show which focuses on the credit crunch. Interest in the show has been huge especially from journalists looking for an antidote to all the bad news. *Crunch: the Musical* was headlined on the front page of the *Financial Times*



Above: **Francis Rainsford OS 66-71** in Arequipa, Peru, presenting a Stonyhurst shield to **Fr Saturnino Vasquez SJ**, Headmaster of the Colegio San Jose, in commemoration of the historic links between the two Jesuit establishments.

and covered extensively in the *Guardian*, *The Times* and *Le Monde*. Music from the show was also broadcast on Boxing Day on over 450 US independent radio stations, in a news programme which was delighted to find a way of exploring the comical side of the financial crisis. In France, TV Channel M6 has also recently broadcast a workshop of the show in London. Europe 1 have also broadcast some of the score and interviewed the creators who are now working on a London production. For more information: www.crunchthemusical.com.

After university in Steubenville, OH, **Conor Hill OS 94-99**, completed a Master's in Theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. He is now doing a PhD there, hoping to finish in 2010. He will be happy to advise anyone interested in doing post-graduate theological study in the United States. Email: conor.hill@gmail.com.

The president, **Dr Jay Chitnis** recently had the pleasure of representing the Association at the Inaugural Lecture at the University of Birmingham Medical School, given by **Professor Chris Buckley OS 72-80**. He said that it was a packed lecture on cutting edge work and was delivered with stunning audio-visual support and great humour. He was pleased

to hear Chris refer fondly to his Jesuit education, closing his A/V presentation with AMDG, and paying tribute to Michael Gorman and the financial support he had received from Eagle Aid.

Bon voyage to **Donald Hall OS 81-86** who with two friends is motorcycling from London to Cape Town in support of Cancer Research UK. We have just heard that he has left Aswan and entered the Sudan. (www.crazymuzungu.com)

The Jesuit Missions Team for this year's London Marathon again includes a number of OS, including **Ged Brumby OS 90-95**, **David Hurst OS 62-70** and **Jonathan Smith OS 82-87**. To support them, go to www.justgiving.com/jesuitmissions/raisemoney.

Adrian Flanagan OS 74-79, the 'vertical' circumnavigator, has now published his book of the voyage, *Over the Top* (ISBN 9780297850793). We are not sure what he intends to do next but did I hear some talk about hang gliding round the globe...?

Derek Fanning OS 81-89, Association Representative in Ireland, has produced two more books. One is a whimsical and lighthearted biography *Journeys in Elvish Realms* (ISBN 9780297850793), describing various expeditions to far flung and not so far flung places and the other is *The Tunnel, An Epic Poem* (ISBN 0781899158188).

Michael de Giorgio OS 67-75, a Chartered Accountant, sold his financial consultancy to found Greenhouse, providing sport and performing arts for young people, particularly those who do not have access to these opportunities, enabling them to develop positive life skills. (See www.greenhouseschools.org).

James Doyle OS 88-93 recently made news in *The Times* as one of ten 'Future Stars of the City' - 'the brightest young legal talent heading for the top of the profession'. A partner in Lovell's, he still plays golf and rugby and says that he 'acts as an unpaid groom to my wife's horse'.

MILITARY NEWS

From **Lt-Col N Southward OBE, OS 56-65**:

The BBC reported in January that UK soldiers are angry that they have to share hospital facilities in Afghanistan with the Taliban. The MoD explained that such care was provided as required by the Geneva Convention. Writing to the *Daily Telegraph* (24 January 2009), **Surgeon Captain R T Jolly OBE RN, OS 58-65** commented:

During the Falklands War, my little field hospital at Ajax Bay treated friend and foe alike. The Red and Green Life Machine, as the hospital was known, dealt with 580 British, and some 200 Argentine, casualties... On one occasion, an injured survivor from HMS Coventry found himself in a stretcher alongside a badly wounded Argentine pilot. The young stoker became angry at our care and concern for a colleague of the Skyhawk pilots who had sunk his ship (and killed 19 of his friends) that very afternoon. We calmed him down.

Our attitude at that time, as it is today with our splendid Naval successors at Camp Bastion in Helmand province, was to respect the Geneva Convention - despite the fact that the amorphous Taliban have never actually signed up.

However difficult the circumstances, our driving force lay in the words of Admiral Lord Nelson, written on the day of his death: "May humanity after victory be the predominant feature in the British Fleet."

(During the Falklands War Richard Jolly was the Senior Medical Officer of 3 Commando Brigade RM. Interestingly and unusually he was one of few combat veterans to be decorated by both sides, with an OBE in the UK's South Atlantic Honours List as well as an Argentinian appointment as an Officer in the Order of May, in recognition of his services to their wounded during the conflict).



Colonel J M R Hopkinson OBE, OS 73-83, Assistant Head, Operations Directorate, Ministry of Defence. **Lieutenant-Colonel B C Farrell MBE, OS 76-86**, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, The Irish Guards.

Lieutenant-Colonel R M Hayhurst, OS 84-89, Commanding Officer (Designate - wef November 2009), 5th Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel C E Riddell RLC, OS 78-83, Chief Logistic Operations, HQ British Forces, Cyprus.

Lieutenant-Colonel A M C Rogers, OS 74-85, Commanding Officer, 4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, (was Second-in-Command, 1st Battalion, until February 2007, then Staff Officer Operations/Plans, HQ 6 Division, which included a ten month tour of duty in Afghanistan.)

Lieutenant-Colonel K D S Sharifi QRL, OS 81-87, Directing Staff, Joint Services Command and Staff College.

Major P M Hayhurst, OS 85-90, is currently on the Apache training course prior to taking command of an Apache squadron in autumn 2009.

Major P R G Pitchfork MC, OS 84-89, Officer Commanding A Company, the Royal Gurkha Rifles. Awarded MC whilst commanding his company on operations in Afghanistan between September 2007 and April 2008. Selected for promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in summer 2009.

Major N H Woellwarth, OS 74-84, Staff Officer, UK Ops, HQ London District.

Captain R Hayhurst, OS 88-93, recently returned from Afghanistan (April to October 2008) where he worked as part of a Royal Engineers Works Team designing and constructing military bases. Selected for promotion to Major in summer 2009.

Above: **Paul Pitchfork OS 84-89** (front centre) and **Aloysius Connolly OS 98-03** (extreme right, back row) of the Royal Gurkha Rifles in Afghanistan. Paul was recently awarded the Military Cross. Soldier magazine reported "After fighting off as many as 60 Taliban fighters during a contact on the fringes of Sangin bazaar ... [he] realised that his troops would have to take preventative action to kill off any potential counter-attacks. In a fire fight that lasted more than ten hours, the inspirational officer was under direct fire as he commanded his troops against a determined enemy."

Below: Naval surgeons, **Commander Tim Coltman OS 79-89** (left) and **Lt Commander Nick Newton OS 90-95** whilst serving at Basra in Iraq. Tim is a consultant orthopaedic surgeon and Nick is a surgical trainee. Both are now back in Portsmouth, which is their normal base.



REUNIONS AND CONVIVIA

NEWCASTLE CONVIVIUM

October's North East Convivium was held in Newcastle at the University Catholic Chaplaincy. An early evening Mass, followed by drinks and supper, gave us the opportunity to meet new members and catch up with old friends.

Mass was concelebrated by University Chaplain Fr Andrew Downie and the College Chaplain Fr John Twist SJ.

It was attended by 30 Association Members of all generations including new undergraduates from the Universities of Newcastle and Northumbria. Due to the Freshers' Ball, our Durham members were unable to make it and we look forward to welcoming them at the next event. It was lovely to see the Everatts and the Tomalin-Reeves who had made the distance from Bellingham and Thirsk.

We would like to thank Mia, the Lay Chaplain, and Anita for the uplifting music and Edmund Rous-Eyre for reading. Our thanks also go to the Headmaster, Andrew Johnson and to Beverley Sillitoe and Rachel Eccleston for supporting us in this event.

Historically the North East Region has 200 members although we do not have contact details for all. As regional co-ordinators for the North East region, we would like to develop more events for our members and would welcome feedback and ideas. If you would like to be involved, please contact Emma and Richard Wotton at emma.wotton1@btinternet.com.

Below: drinks in the Library at Campion Hall



OXFORD CONVIVIUM

Campion Hall was the setting for a large gathering of OS and friends for Mass celebrated by the Master, Fr Brendan Callaghan SJ, in their cosy and intimate chapel, and then drinks in the library with some of the residents. We then walked through the moonlit back alleys to the nearby University Chaplaincy for a very welcome sit-down supper.

The Association Chairman, Christopher Page, said some words of welcome. Fr Nick King SJ, OS, who had arranged the event gave an address about Edmund Campion and his importance in history and to the ethos of the College, exemplified by the Stonyhurst Children's Holiday Trust, the Lourdes Pilgrimage and Easter Retreat. He concluded with a toast to 'Stonyhurst College' to which the Headmaster, Andrew Johnson, replied and we then drank to the 'Stonyhurst Family'. Formalities ended, the crack and buzz continued for a considerable time.

The young were mainly Oxford undergraduates; others seemed to have come from far and wide and from all walks and ages of life, to appreciate good food, plentiful wine and excellent company. No one was in a hurry to go and it was only sympathy for the patient and courteous staff of the Chaplaincy which finally occasioned our leave taking.

We would like to thank the Master of Campion Hall, Fr Brendan Callaghan SJ, OS, the Association Chaplain, Fr Billy Hewett SJ, OS, Fr Nick King SJ, OS, Rachel Eccleston from the College, the courteous Chaplaincy team and all who contributed to a successful evening.



1983 REUNION

ANTHONY CHITNIS

THREE YEARS AGO, SIX friends met for a beer and a Chinese meal in the West End of London and the result of this social gathering was the arrival of 51 Old Boys from the 1983 leavers for a 25-year reunion at Stonyhurst last October. Due to the Association, namely Beverley Sillitoe and the power of the internet, contact was made with colleagues all over the world including George Mercer and Andrew Vickers in America, Jeremy Cafferata in the Bahamas, Malcolm Thorpe in Dubai, Barry Lowe in Zimbabwe,

Damian Green in Luxembourg, Brian Douglas in Spain, Nic du Chastel in France, Elias Rodriquez in Germany and Jono Gomes in Portugal.

Most of them met at the Dunkenhalth Hotel on Friday night where conversation and laughter prevailed all evening.

On Saturday everyone met in the Pietà Gallery for registration and then lunch in the Bailey Room where even the intervention of the fire alarm could not dent the atmosphere. In the afternoon

Left: Scenes from the 1983 Reunion, including the indispensable Beverley in organisational mode.

Right: Last but not least among the Association convivia of 2008 was the Carol singing in Sloane Square, a well attended event organised by Ben Pryor OS 90-95. Cecilia Payne OS 01-07 is rattling the collection pot, whilst various OS sing with great enthusiasm and we hope comparable skill. Tired vocal chords were later nursed in a nearby pub, in what has now become an annual fixture. Money raised goes to the Stonyhurst Children's Holiday Trust.

some departed for a round of golf, others for an informative tour by Jan Graffius of the newly restored Sodality Chapel and the Arundell Library. The rest watched the 1st XV record a victory



good food and much hilarity meant a great time was had by all. Afterwards we managed to stop at the Bayley for a swift pint. I will never forget the sight of a startled barmaid at closing time being met with a request for fifty pints!

On our return to the hotel, more stories of times long gone were recounted and another guest, Steve Coogan, the Comedian, was persuaded to pose for our group photograph. One or two of our year, who shall remain nameless, were convinced that he did in fact attend Stonyhurst and left with us in 1983!

The weekend was rounded off perfectly by Mass at the College on

Sunday morning where the singing, particularly from the Old Boys, lived up to expectation. The reunion was such a resounding success that it has been suggested an annual gathering of those who left in '83, should take place at a different venue throughout the UK, to keep the spirit alive.

I would recommend anyone considering organising such a reunion, or attending one, to make the effort, as I am sure they will not be disappointed.



LAST YEAR'S PILGRIMAGE/holiday took the form of a spiritual and cultural visit to Vienna in October. We travelled from Heathrow and after some trials and tribulations by the evening of the 21st the whole party had mustered at our hotel. Our first visit was to the Jesuitenkirche, a glorious building in high baroque style. We were made welcome in the adjoining Jesuit community house and there Fr Michael said Mass. When we came out, what should catch our eye but a restaurant enticingly named 'Inigo'. Naturally it was there that we had our meal, watched over by a picture of St Ignatius the Pilgrim, the original of which we had seen on our visit to Manresa a few years before. We fantasised about how Fr Billy of Inigo Enterprises might have reacted, inspired perhaps to found just such a chain of restaurants hard by each of the Jesuit churches in Britain. The Jesuitenkirche doubles as the university church, a suitable reminder of the fondness of the Empress Maria Theresa for the Jesuits.

During our stay we encountered such kindness that we decided that if ever there is question of nominating a European City of Courtesy, all of us would give our votes to Vienna. Places to eat abounded and our favourite quickly established itself – 'The Black Sheep', a semi-bar run by the most hospitable of proprietors. The place became our usual evening headquarters.

The weather was cold but dry and the sun came out brilliantly on several days. Once we travelled through the Vienna

Woods to the church of St Joseph, erected on Mt. Kahlenburg by King Jan Sobieski of Poland in 1683 after his spectacular victory over the Turks. Fr Michael said Mass for us there. The church is manned by Polish priests served by a community of Polish nuns and all around were pictures of Pope John Paul II's visit. The nearby village of Grinzing is a great wine centre and was a good place to stop for lunch.

A memorable visit was to the church of Our Lady at Marianzell, the principal shrine of Our Lady in Austria, rebuilt in thanksgiving after the defeat of the Turkish invaders. It was visited by Pope Benedict during his pilgrimage to Austria. That evening we returned to Mass at our local church, a monastery of the Conventual Franciscans. In the cloister is a striking mural of their saint Maximilian Kolbe.

Another visit was to the 900 year old Benedictine monastery of Melke. Also notable was a Mozart Mass with choir and orchestra at the Jesuitenkirche, a glorious and moving experience.

One way and the other, we paid proper homage to the beauties of Vienna while savouring its life today at every turn. There was Sachertorte as well as the 'Black Sheep', an Imperial past blending in with the ambience of our own times.

Maxinne Torrents dels Prats

Below, l to r: Hazel Grey, Yvonne Wallis, Maxinne Torrents dels Prats and Duncan Taylor (OS '38) outside Melke Abbey.



IF 2008 WITNESSED UNPRECEDENTED economic gloom for many, for Eagle Aid the year was one of unprecedented activity. Our accounts are not yet completed but our revenue had exceeded £200,000 by October – more than twice our previous highest and four times our average annual income.

The supply of a Mazda 4 x 4 for the Stomalthery Clinic in Harare was described in the last Newsletter. We have sent a further £16,000 for fuel for the Mazda and bandages, dressings and other consumables for the Clinic's patients. In April, we promoted a most successful piano recital by Rose Chomondeley which provided much of the funds needed in Harare.

In July, we issued a Newsletter, detailing much of this activity and were overwhelmed at the response, raising more than £100,000 for our work.

In August, Dominique Byrne – a former pupil of St Aloysius – started his ride round a Tour de France route – a total of 3,100 kms. We saw him off on 24th August from the Tower of London, and he completed his ride on the 21st September at the Arc de Triomphe. To date, he has raised £55,000 for the Landmine victim children we support in Kosovo – sufficient to fund our support for them from 2008 until 2011 inclusive.

Nav Jeevan's Home in Kolkatta was enlarged, costing about £32,000, of which we provided £25,000. It involved the building of two extra floors on top of the existing building. In May, the Indian bank managed to 'loose' one of our transfers of £10,000 and it was not until September that the funds were traced. By way of recompense, the Syndicate Bank provided Nav Jeevan with 30 second-hand computers. The extension was completed and blessed on the 18th December 2008 amidst great celebrations, by the Archbishop of Kolkatta.

Eagle Aid's Trustees are now planning the first-ever British Jesuit Alumni/ae Congress which will take place in Oxford, at Exeter College, 9th-11th April 2010. Before then, efforts will be made to provide Eagle Aid with new management and its own office, so that it can continue 'helping others' during the next 22 years.

Michael Gorman

Simon Andrews OS 61-68, Deputy Head Learning at the College, together with family and friends, recently started a charity for Africa following his daughter's work with YBJA and a family visit to see for themselves. He writes:

SELF RELIANCE IN AFRICA has been registered with the Charity Commissioners since September 2006 (Charity Number 1115995). We have 3 trustees, Val Edge, a retired teacher from Blackburn, Barbara and Simon Andrews. SRiA provides training and materials to enable individuals to find employment and so become self-reliant:

- secondary school fees for children in need
- driving lessons, driving tests and driving licenses.
- learning materials to develop a language skill.
- tools and training for skills in plumbing, engineering etc.

The charity believes in direct contact with its beneficiaries but works with other charities to ensure any funds are spent wisely. All the charity's funds are used to help the beneficiaries; all administrative costs are borne by the trustees.

The idea to form Self Reliance in Africa developed after our daughter, Sarah (OS 2003), went to work with street children in Tanzania in 2003 under the aegis of YBJA (Now JMV). She spent five months working with the children, looking after their pastoral and domestic needs on a daily basis.

Barbara and I, together with our son James (OS 2000) went out to visit Sarah over Christmas and New Year and got to know a number of the children and those who looked after them.

One of the most apparent problems in Tanzania is the difficulty with education:

- All children attend primary schools which are state funded, but poorer children cannot afford to go to secondary school.
- The language for teaching is Swahili in primary schools and then English for secondary.
- Lack of employment and other opportunities for school leavers, is a major problem.

We started by helping two ex-street boys, Frankie and Dickson. Frankie was a street boy in Dar Es Salaam as a young



child, sleeping in doorways and cleaning cars to earn money for food. Dickson came from Arusha in northern Tanzania and ended up in a Dar Es Salaam jail at the age of 12. He was then looked after by Frankie until they both started to live in a shelter run by an English charity. When we met him, Dickson was about 18 years of age and still in primary school, having missed out on the early years of education. We decided that they needed some form of training and so, in Dickson's case, we provided driving lessons and paid for his driving license. Frankie wanted to become a car mechanic and so we paid for his tools and apprenticeship in a local garage. These two boys have done quite well. Dickson has continued with education and has recently completed year 3 of secondary school at the age of 23 while Frankie is living in Sweden, is in a steady relationship and has a baby girl.

We have also helped Estifanos who is a tour guide in Lalibela, Ethiopia. He lives in this very poor but very beautiful area, a World Heritage Site with 11 ancient rock-hewn churches. However his wife has to work as a maid in Saudi Arabia, sending money home to support the family. Estifanos's difficulty as a tour guide lies in meeting up with the tourists in the first place. We funded driving lessons and licences so that he can now pick up tourists from the airport and then become their tour guide.

As time has moved on, we have felt that the greatest good can be provided through paying for children to attend secondary school. We have been supporting Hawa for a couple of years at her school in Arusha, Tanzania. Coming from a Maasai tribe, her family do not believe in education but she was quite determined to go to school if the fees could be found. She is getting very good school reports and has now finished the second form.

We are just starting to support Elizabeth, also from Arusha. She reached form 3 at secondary school when her father died and she had to leave because the family could not afford the school fees. Her mum has remarried but the stepfather is unable to pay for Elizabeth's education to continue. We hope to be able to assist her through to the end of her secondary education.

So far the money needed for these projects has been raised from a number of sponsored events at Oakhill College (where Barbara teaches) and donations from other charities and individuals. We hope to increase our fundraising to support other children and young people and enable them to get on that first rung of the employment ladder. If you are able to help SRiA financially or in any other way, please contact us at SRiA, Cut Thorn Farm, Shire Lane, Hurst Green, Clitheroe. BB7 9QR. Telephone: 01254 826251. e-mail: sria@live.co.uk

STONYHURST & LOURDES – AN INVITATION

RUPERT BELL OS 81 – 86, CHIEF BRANCARDIER FOR THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

THE CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place at the end of August each year and involves around 1,200 people from the dioceses of Southwark, Portsmouth, East Anglia, Clifton, and Northampton as well as a number of youth and school groups, including our own Stonyhurst Pilgrimage Trust.

Stonyhurst takes about 100 people, including current and recent pupils, as well as a number of older OS and families, and importantly many local old friends of the college community. We welcome helpers over 17 up to any age and we have limited, properly regulated facilities to cater for young children so families can also come.

In particular, we welcome those who need care – assisted pilgrims. These are the most important people of all in Lourdes and it is our primary concern to care for them during the pilgrimage, and indeed throughout the year.

Stonyhurst has been part of the CA for over 40 years and historically we have offered young muscle to help move the assisted pilgrims around. In recent years, thanks to advances in medication and wheelchair design, our part has evolved to a more all-round care role, including washing, dressing and feeding. In particular, with Stonyhurst becoming co-educational, our group has included a growing number of handmaids (female helpers) as well as male 'brancardiers' (literally "stretcher-bearers"). We also provide a significant number of doctors and nurses who bring the necessary medical capability to run the pilgrimage.

Stonyhurst has also played an important role across the larger group in providing leadership and organisation and over the years the College has produced many influential, not to mention colourful characters who have left an indelible mark – they are too many to list by name but the College tradition of service remains strong in Lourdes!

The pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity to combine periods of quite intense physical work, personal and group spiritual reflection and prayer, and lots of socialising and partying. It is

hard to appreciate the balance without experiencing it first hand, but there is something hugely satisfying in moving between these three spheres – Work, Rest and Pray, if you will – and the evidence has to be the friendships which are forged here, and the loyalty with which so many pilgrims return year after year.

August 21st – 28th 2009

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Association members and their families are invited to join this year's pilgrimage.

We are particularly keen to help find assisted pilgrims: do you know anybody in your parish who is sick and would like to join the pilgrimage?

If so please email Beverley Sillitoe at association@stonyhurst.ac.uk, or call 01254 827043 for booking forms and information.

Lourdes is a great melting pot, with young and old, well and sick, rich and poor all coming together for a week of celebrations. As Stonyhurst links into the Catholic Association, so we all join with many other nationalities to respond to the call of Our Lady, to come in penance, to pray and to process. It is a never-ending, lively community of faith and an environment that simply allows us to be the very best person we can be, in loving service and in deep friendship in the family of God.

The work is varied. We ensure all new helpers are closely supervised by experienced hands and so are never out of their depth, but we also aim to give everyone a mixed schedule. Typically, this will involve both pushing wheelchairs throughout town, and light bedside care such as helping our assisted guests wash, dress and prepare to go out. We also involve helpers in dining room duties – laying

tables, moving food from the kitchens to tables, helping people eat where necessary and clearing up. We are lucky to be supported by a large and excellent medical team of doctors and nurses, so we never ask untrained volunteers to perform duties outside their comfort zone.

Perhaps the most important role any of us play is to give freely of our time and ourselves – so many of the people we care for do not have the chance to spend real time with others, especially with young people, and for them the chance simply to chat, to hear about real life, to share jokes and reflections is at the centre of their own Lourdes experience. In turn, almost without realising it, we open ourselves up to learn from them – to understand the dignity with which they tolerate their illnesses, to develop patience and perspective and to value the gifts we have but so seldom recognise: our health, our education and our families and friends.

Lourdes is a great place for a party and barely a night goes by without some sort of celebration, whether a birthday party, a sing-song, or a reunion. Our group includes many children whose joy for life spills over into the larger pilgrimage, in Masses, music and fancy dress. Stonyhurst throws a number of great parties in the course of the week (any excuse) and many a star turn has been revealed over the years at the last night cabaret.

2008 has been a special year for Lourdes, the 150th anniversary of the apparitions, when Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette, and a wonderful chance for the Stonyhurst family to participate in these great celebrations, either returning as a regular, or even better, making a first pilgrimage with us.

We can offer financial assistance to those who would not otherwise be able to come on pilgrimage, so please don't let infirmity or lack of funds be your reason not to come.

Lourdes is a wonderful community experience and shows the Stonyhurst family at its very finest, in the service of Our Lady and each other. Come and try it for yourself!

LOURDES 1858-2008

Three thoughts occurred to me after we returned from the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of August 2008.

Firstly, the role of the Pilgrimage to Lourdes in the Life of Stonyhurst. This was the 45th successive year that a party from Stonyhurst had gone to Lourdes. Together with the Stonyhurst Children's Holiday Week and the Easter Retreat, the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes is an example of what the Stonyhurst Family stands for and what it does, not only in term time, but also in the holidays.

Secondly, we celebrated this year the 150th Anniversary of the apparitions at Lourdes in 1858 of Our Blessed Lady to a fourteen-year old girl, Bernadette Soubirous. Stonyhurst marked this Anniversary with record numbers, a Mystery Tour led by the Chairman which was even more of a mystery than usual (but if the Pope sets out the way, who is there to doubt?), and a Jesuit Alumni/ae Party expanded to include former pupils of Wimbledon College, St Aloysius, St Ignatius Stamford Hill, and Mount St Mary's.

Thirdly, the meaning of Lourdes was brought home to us powerfully by one of our number, Mrs Bernadine Holmes who, although seriously ill, joined us on the Pilgrimage. Bernadine raised our spirits and was a wonderful example to us all before returning home to die in Clitheroe Hospital in September.

We were also blessed by the presence of Father John Twist SJ, the College Chaplain, and by Fathers Hilary Thomas SJ, and Nick King SJ and Brother Ted Coyle SJ and Father Castelli. Together they ministered to our needs by saying Mass, leading the Stations of the Cross, administering the Sacraments, and by their presence amongst us.

If anyone wants to explore the meaning of the Ignatian ideal of 'Men and Women for Others' between 21st – 28th August 2009 with the Stonyhurst Party in Lourdes, please contact Beverley Sillitoe at the College. I guarantee you will return with an enhanced understanding of what 'Quant je puis' is all about.

*Richard Brumby, Chairman
Stonyhurst Pilgrimage Trust 2008*



2003 marked the 40th official pilgrimage to Lourdes made by the Stonyhurst community and Mark Belderbos OS 56-61, chairman at the time, could say in Newsletter 288:

WHEN THE STONYHURST pilgrims set off for Lourdes on 22nd August, 2003, they could feel with some justification that they were celebrating a special milestone in that they were embarking on the 40th Annual Stonyhurst Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Some may question whether this statement is entirely accurate, or suggest that the milestone was in fact one year late, since it does have to be acknowledged that a party of pioneer pilgrims from Stonyhurst did indeed visit Lourdes in 1963. We owe them a very special debt of gratitude for establishing what has become a permanent and important part of the Stonyhurst calendar. However they would themselves acknowledge that they were to some extent in the nature of a reconnaissance party seeking to explore the potential for a full pilgrimage thereafter. It is relevant to note that a report in the Stonyhurst Magazine of January 1964 contained the following extracts:

'Father Worthy from the College endeavoured to collect a representative party – for a pioneer pilgrimage. This he succeeded in doing with the accent on 'pioneer'...No one knew who was in the group – in which train or in which coach. The applications and bookings had all been made too late nor was there a leader...If the pioneer group has done no more than give to the College boys the opportunity to be so inspired, it has served Stonyhurst well...'

Inevitably this exploratory pilgrimage was a great success and it immediately resulted in plans being made for a fully organized pilgrimage in 1964, which has come to be regarded as the 'first'.

Three sick pilgrims were in the 1963 party as well as nine brancardiers, four handmaids and eight more senior pilgrims, including Monsignor Sidney Lescher and the Reverend Edmund Worthy SJ, both of whom made a substantial contribution in those early years. It would be very remiss not to recall the fact that among the brancardiers was one Nick King, then a pupil and now the Reverend Nick King SJ, who has been on more pilgrimages than most and was the only 'pioneer' to accompany us in 2003. Some may be surprised that

Father Paul Magill SJ was not an original pioneer, so much did he establish himself as a 'prominent' member of the party, spiritual leader and chief organizer in later years.

We have enjoyed continuous Jesuit representation, including besides those mentioned, Father Jock Earle SJ, Headmaster of the College, now recently deceased. Blessed with the support of successive Rectors and Superiors, we have greatly benefited from the guidance and inspiration of our Spiritual Directors, more recently, Father Hilary Thomas SJ and Father Mathew Power SJ

Our appreciation is also due in great measure to the secular leaders, prominent OS such as Tom Harrison, Louis King, Gerald King, Basil George and Joe Goodier, and more recent Chairmen of the Pilgrimage Trust, Eddie Kershaw, Tony Brown, John Cardwell and John Hartley.

From early days, a notable feature of the Stonyhurst party has been that it has comprised such a diverse and comprehensive representation of all those who make up the Stonyhurst 'Family' – Jesuits, staff, OS, parents, pupils, families, friends and acquaintances, as well as pilgrims previously complete strangers to Stonyhurst but who have now become part and parcel of our group. All have always been most welcome, young and old, and from whatever location or background. Many long-lasting friendships, not to mention a few marriages, have come about in no small measure due to the intervention of Our Lady of Lourdes. It goes without saying that the ongoing success of the pilgrimage has, to a very large extent, been because of the participation of the pupils (now both boys and girls) of the College, who have willingly given up a week of their summer holiday to offer their services to the sick pilgrims and cheerfully carried out the many duties assigned to them.

Much praise and favourable comment has been made with regard to the hard work and commitment of the pupils and young OS, and their friendliness and willingness to help in the hospital and elsewhere, and in all the liturgies and similar activities. Indeed it is as a result of the constant and unselfish dedication of all helpers that an almost permanent atmosphere of good will, love and togetherness is fostered throughout the group.

Lourdes has changed over the years. Before the Stonyhurst pilgrimages began,



Above and previous page: Crispian Hollis OS46-54, Bishop of Portsmouth, at Lourdes in 2008

but nevertheless 100 years after the apparitions, the underground basilica of St Pius X was constructed to accommodate about 25,000 pilgrims. Within the last ten years, a new hospital has been built, providing much improved facilities for sick pilgrims, and incorporating a roof-top terrace at each end, one affording commanding views of the Grotto and the Domain, the other providing a more peaceful but nevertheless dramatic aspect of the adjacent countryside and the foothills of the Pyrenees. More recently a new Chapel of Exposition has been constructed, a peaceful and devotional setting for quiet prayer and meditation.

Despite these changes and some amendments in procedures, all will agree that the whole purpose and meaning of Lourdes changes hardly at all. There is a constant and compelling atmosphere of devotion and prayer to Our Blessed Lady, common to all pilgrims of every nationality, evidenced not only at the Grotto and in the liturgies, but in the dedication and commitment of all pilgrims to the well-being of those around them, particularly the sick and less able-bodied.

Lourdes is a place of many emotions, especially for a first time pilgrim, perhaps bewildering but at the same time awesome, challenging and uplifting. But it is much more than simply a place – it is an experience with a lasting effect, engendering an atmosphere of faith, hope and love, the comfort of feeling closer to Almighty God through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, and the ability to cope more easily with our problems and difficulties, and to evaluate more readily the priorities in our daily lives.

For forty years, Stonyhurst pilgrims have committed themselves in no small measure to the success of our pilgrimages. May they continue, for many years to come, to receive the graces and blessings so much in abundance at Our Lady's Shrine.

Fr Nick King SJ, OS 60 – 66

LAST WEEKEND I WAS IN Lourdes again. It is now beyond my computing how often I have been there; I know that the first time was in 1963, but that does not really count, since I was with a French family, and swore that I would never return. The next year, however, forty-four years ago, and quite to my astonishment, I found myself back in that place, having emptied out my entire post office account in order to be part of the first Stonyhurst pilgrimage to Lourdes. And from that moment, I was hooked.

What was it that so swept me off my feet? It is hard to be confident of the answer, almost half a century later, but two things have always seemed to me to be at the heart of the matter. The first is that when working with what are now called the 'Assisted Pilgrims', you very soon discover that you are receiving more than you can possibly give. The second is that Lourdes is what the Celts call a very 'thin' place, a place where you feel very close to what lies beyond what we can see and hear. I am not sure that I would have expressed it quite like that to myself, back in 1964; I should probably have talked more of the carousing in the bars and the short nights; but I know that I was aware of it, even then, for it was important to me to be at the Grotto late at night, at the end of the day. And it has changed my life.

This last weekend, that was still clear to me. Bernadette would not have understood what it meant to call Lourdes a 'thin' place, but she did call it, 'a place suspended between heaven and earth', which is very much the same thing. This weekend I was addressing, along with eminent figures like Jean Vanier and Timothy Radcliffe OP, a conference on disability organized by my youngest brother Richard (OS 1966), who is Director of the HCPT Pilgrimage. Now because we were not working in the hospital, there was more leisure to mooch around the long-familiar places, despite the autumnal chill of Lourdes in November. And there was time for less rushed prayer, without having to hurry to the next duty. That familiar sense of the closeness of God was very strong, as always in Lourdes.

That second element of what Lourdes did to me 44 years ago was also present, however; as I say, the conference was



Above: Jean Vanier OSJB with Fr Timothy

on disability, and the talks given by Fr Timothy and by Jean Vanier in particular were very moving indeed. What they were saying (I suppose what we were all saying, in our different ways) was that working with the disabled, or 'Other-abled', teaches one a great deal about what it means to be human. And one thing that happens as we do this work is that we discover that the 'sick' or 'handicapped' are not 'other', or out on the margins, as our words for them might suggest, but utterly, intensely human, precisely as we are. So that the gap between 'us' and 'them' vanishes, and we are all human together. In other words, working with the 'disabled' forces us to change and broaden and deepen our understanding of what it means to be human. Or, as one of the speakers over the weekend put it, the 'margins' are redefined. This of course is what Jesus was always doing in his earthly ministry.

You should talk to some of the recent and current pupils at Stonyhurst who have done such remarkable work on the Lourdes pilgrimage, or on the SCHAT holiday, or the other works of outreach that so impressively go on from Stonyhurst, and ask them whether in some way this echoes their experience, that in working with and for those less apparently privileged than themselves, they discover a whole hidden depth of meaning in the idea of 'being human'. Then ask them that all-important further question, 'And did you feel that it brought you closer to God?' Then consider coming to Lourdes yourself.

Richard King, OS 71

PILGRIMS TO LOURDES FIND that their week passes by all too quickly in the busy-ness of pilgrimage, whether spiritual or physical. There is little chance to address the fundamentals of our relationships with those we accompany on this journey of faith. An opportunity to do that occurred during the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions, in which Our Lady had spoken to the young, poor, sick, uneducated Bernadette as an equal.

Bishop Jacques Perrier asked HCPT-The Pilgrimage Trust to undertake 'The Church's Mission alongside People with Disabilities', one of twelve missions that are particularly relevant to Lourdes. The theme was *I Have Called You By Your Name*, recognising that we are each uniquely called to be a person in our own right. God created us in his image; he has chosen us, just as we are. Each of us is to be cherished as part of God's family.

In November 400 people gathered at an international Conference in Lourdes to consider various physical and spiritual aspects of disability and perhaps to confront preconceived ideas. A notable array of speakers included Fathers Timothy Radcliffe, Nicholas King (OS 1966) and Michael Drumm and Professor John Swinton. Each spoke powerfully of the place of disabled people within the Church and society, and of what it means to be called by God. A key moment was an address by Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche communities of people with learning disabilities, on the theme 'Many Parts, One Body'. He expressed beautifully how each of us has an important part to play in the body of Christ and how we are all diminished if one element is ignored.

I had the privilege of leading the music at our liturgies, in which the Conference themes were expressed in prayer and song, with dancing from a group of adults with learning disabilities. For me there were perhaps two special moments among many. First, the enthusiastic response to a Marty Haugen song that I had discovered a few days before, which encapsulated everything we were trying to say:

"Thus says the Lord who created you, who formed you: Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine...Because you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you." (Isaiah 43:1)

*We are many parts, we are all one body,
and the gifts we have, we are given to share,
May the spirit of love make us one indeed;
one, the love that we share,
one, our hope in despair,
one, the cross that we bear.*

Secondly, when at the Grotto (right) our Trust Chaplain proclaimed the Gospel (fittingly, the Talents Parable), and his mobile rang just before he reached the line, "As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark"! For gifts and occasional mirth are very much part of what we are as human beings.

It is the mission of us all to uphold the right of every individual to be valued as a person and for their gifts to be fully recognised. The challenge is to put that into practice.

Richard King is Trustee and Pilgrimage Director of HCPT-The Pilgrimage Trust



THE LAST APPARITION

John Hartley OS 47-53

THE STORY OF LOURDES IS too familiar to be retold year by year. The most extraordinary thing about the story was Bernadette herself. It was her solid character and her unwavering testimony, more than anything else, which made credible the remarkable events that took place in Lourdes in 1858. She herself gained nothing from the apparitions, except that of becoming a lonely and misunderstood public figure. That she was ultimately vindicated, when the appointed Church Commission publicly proclaimed in 1862 that the apparitions were authentic, was of little consequence. Bernadette hated photographers and journalists, and wanted nothing more than to be left alone. Indeed, the pressure of publicity and fame became so great that the wise religious authorities (bishops and nuns) responsible for her, decided in 1866 to send her away to a convent at Nevers, four hundred miles from Lourdes, where she spent the rest of her life, until she died, aged 35, in 1879. She was destined never again to see her much-loved parents. Indeed, her mother died only five months after her departure for Nevers. Nor did she ever visit again the Grotto, that holy place where she and the Mother of God had conversed.

The modern mind will ask how it was possible that a 22-year-old girl, who had

achieved such fame throughout France, and who, in spite of the hardships, loved so much the place of her birth, could have consented to leave everything for a far-away cloistered life, amid alien surroundings. Our Lady, during the third apparition, had said, 'I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the next.' This turned out to be an understatement, since Bernadette suffered terribly at Nevers, and was frequently close to death from asthma, and, later, from cancer of the bone. Worse still, since she was not a clever or well-educated novice, the mistress of novices, Sister Vauzous, an upper-class, intelligent woman, frequently taunted Bernadette, expressing scepticism that Our Lady should have appeared to such an ordinary peasant-girl, whose local dialect was so offensive to a cultured ear.

There are two answers to give to the modern mind. Firstly the toughness and strength of Bernadette were forged in a childhood of hardship. A visit to the Cachot – a one-room, dark and dismal dwelling where Bernadette's parents and three siblings lived at the time of the apparitions – will convince anyone of the utter destitution Bernadette's family suffered. There was no heat, or light, or sanitation, and all of her family were close to starvation. Better-off friends came to their aid, it is true; but the Soubirous

family were the poorest of the poor. Secondly, we forget all too easily the powerful impact of the apparitions on Bernadette. For her, they were hours of ecstasy and bliss in an otherwise hard and cruel life. During the fourteen-day phase of the apparitions to which Our Lady had invited her, she longed for each successive encounter; and during each encounter, she was transformed, in face and in posture, so that those who watched (and there were thousands towards the end of that phase) were in no doubt that she was experiencing something out of this world. It is surely, then, not so hard for us to understand how someone who had experienced such a phenomenal and momentous event in her life, would be fortified thereafter with that kind of grace which would enable her to endure whatever came. It is rather like the impact Christ's transfiguration on Mount Tabor must have had on Peter, James and John. Nothing would ever be the same again.

Although the memory of all the apparitions will have been ever-present to Bernadette in her much changed life in Nevers, the memory of the eighteenth, and last, apparition must surely have been as poignant as any. Our Lady had announced who she was at the sixteenth apparition when she said, 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. It seemed appropriate that that apparition would bring to

an end the amazing events of February and March 1858. But though Our Lady had nothing more to say or reveal, she did accord to Bernadette, twice more, the joy of seeing her again. On 7 April, Easter Wednesday, Bernadette was drawn to the Grotto, and spent an hour of oblivious ecstasy with 'her' lady – so oblivious that she did not notice or feel the candle she was holding burning low, so that its flame licked around her hands (without injury) for several minutes. That seemed to be the very end. Would the lady ever come again, Bernadette was asked. 'She didn't tell me,' came Bernadette's reply.

But she did. Bernadette made her First Communion, aged 14, on 3 June, the feast of Corpus Christi; and when, on 16 July, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Bernadette experienced within her that mysterious attraction which in February and March had drawn her to the Grotto, she followed her instinct, and went there. But, by now, because of the excitement and turmoil caused by the apparitions, the Grotto had been closed, and barricaded with planks and fencing and the public prohibited by law from going there. Bernadette knew this; so she



Above: Bernadette Soubirous

© Sanctuaires de Lourdes /Durand

walked round the long way to what we now call the Prairie. And there, in an instant, on the other side of the river Gave, and behind the man-made barricades, she saw her in the niche, where she always had been, smiling as she always had

done, and holding the Rosary, just as she had on that first day five months earlier. What was said during that farewell tryst, Bernadette never told us. But Bernadette did say, 'I saw neither the barricades nor the Gave. It seemed to me I was at the Grotto, no further away than at other times. I saw only the Blessed Virgin.'

Bernadette's suffering life must surely have been given an infusion of hope and trust through those encounters with Our Lady, especially the last, the memory of which would have burned deep within her. She was able to cope with her trials, her sufferings, her humiliations, not so much because of her natural stoicism and fortitude, great though these were, but because of the enormous grace conferred upon her by the eighteen encounters with Our Lady. 'The Grotto: it was my Heaven,' she used to say. On another occasion: 'She smiled at me, and spoke to me as a person.'

Bernadette was blessed indeed, and much grace balanced much suffering in her short life. That same grace is offered to all of us at the Grotto; but to us it is given to catch only a glimpse, a faint echo, of Bernadette's glorious experience.

A FEW MEMORIES OF LOURDES PILGRIMS...

From Gerard Eaton OS 46-51:

We boarded the boat at Dover, having loaded the sick pilgrims, and made our way to the lower deck restaurant for an English breakfast. The queue was long. We arrived at the back of the queue with Bishop Mervyn Alexander. I spied the tall figure of Monsignor Crispian Hollis almost at the front of the queue. I turned to Bishop Mervyn. 'Your Lordship, your Vicar General is at the front of the queue. Shall I ask him to get your breakfast?' 'Gerard' the Bishop replied, 'I would trust Crispian with my diocese, but not with my breakfast!'

and again:

One of the great characters on the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage was Monsignor Sidney Lescher OBE, OS. Sidney was a paraplegic having lost the use of both legs in a car accident.

One morning he took a group of young people to the Prairie, and settled them down facing the Grotto. Then Sidney gave the children and the adults a wonderful explanation of the words spoken by Our

Lady 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. Sidney said the importance of those words lay in what they proved. In short he said, they proved the Old Testament account of the fall of man: they proved the Assumption, they proved that Mary is the Mother of God, they proved Heaven and Eternity, they proved the necessity of Baptism. These were just some of the proofs Sidney touched upon. He spoke for about twenty minutes with a seraphic smile on his face.

Below: Sidney with Mark, Claire and Jeremy Eaton



From Rupert Bell OS 81-86:

We have been lucky to have had such a rich and varied group of people with us over the years. From the late John Cardwell, with his robust determination that the whole thing should be run on very English lines (suede shoes, ties at all times and never far from a copy of the Telegraph and a good Armagnac), to the three wonderful Baldwin sisters, whom the Stonyhurst group adopted as fellow travellers in the same hotel. Peter Shoemith from Hurst Green and a regular guest in the Accueil (where many of the assisted pilgrims stay), has a range of party tricks from boxing commentator, to cattle auctioneer and a memory for bishops second to none...

We were saddened this year to learn of the death of Mary Engel who had taught the young Archbishop of Southwark the piano and who teamed up with him, memorably, for a selection of Gilbert and Sullivan songs a couple of years ago.

Over time, people pick up certain jobs and make them their own – Tony Brown simply was the man with the Polaroid camera, and ever-present during mystery



tour tea parties (how we miss him). John Hartley, notwithstanding his many other contributions, was taken off mercilessly by the Joseph boys as 'John Flip-Chartley' at one famous last night party; and then came another even finer exponent of the notice board, the wonderful Beverley Sillitoe, without whom none of us would ever get to Lourdes, let alone have a clue what is going on when we were there.

And then of course, there is the legendary Laurie Ryder – a man about whom whole newsletters should be written. Over ninety years old and younger than ever, his renditions of Shakespeare bring the house down. His twinkling eye for a pretty young handmaid has steered generations of Stonyhurst boys in the right direction. Laurie has to be seen in action to be properly understood – he is probably the best known, and certainly the most imitated non-OS within the group. Yes, we are so fond of him that we will overlook the fact that he went to the Mount...

Large families feature a lot in our group – Belderbosses, Josephs, Hartleys, Pages, Brumbys, Hargreaves, Thorpes, Fernandeses, Mellows, Kings,

Savundras, Smiths (and variations on all of these) keep coming back through the generations and bringing even more family members with them. Long may it continue!

From Malcolm Martindale OS 50 – 59:

One year we had a pilgrim, an elderly lady from India, who had come to Lourdes, via London and our pilgrimage, to die. The heat was terrific that year and 'Mrs Patel' suffered with everyone else because, as she said, 'I come from hill country, in Darjeeling'. For the whole week we were there, she made it clear that she wanted to die, even to the point of declining medication and food wherever possible. In spite of her best efforts to get to Heaven before the rest of us could leave Lourdes, Mrs Patel was still with us as we boarded the Ambulance Train to return to England. However, her prayers were answered to the extent that she died on the train just after we left and this was where things got interesting.

It was decided that Mrs Patel deserved some privacy, so when the train stopped for a few minutes at Bordeaux, her body was passed on a stretcher, through the

open carriage window to Chris*, myself, and a couple of other brancardiers standing below on the platform. Then amid a flurry of doctors, IV equipment and nurses fanning her and 'taking her pulse', she was rushed along the platform and through another open window into a compartment of her own, where she remained undisturbed until Calais.

Getting Mrs Patel on board the Dover Ferry was no problem for her team of movers, who had her out of the train, along the platform, past the sleepy douaniers ('Tres malade, tres malade!') up the gangway and into a cabin before you could say Jacques Robinson.

Mrs Patel died officially and for bureaucratic purposes in mid-Channel. *Chris Newton-Carter was one of the victims in the Twin Towers, NY in 2001.

From Shell Roca, a pilgrim:

At Stonyhurst in Easter 2001, I casually asked someone about the Lourdes pilgrimage having heard various people talk about it. 'It's great fun, why don't you come along one year'. At the time I prevaricated, 'Not sure it is really my thing – I'll think about it'.

Little did I know that seven years later what an important part Lourdes would play in my life, both professionally and personally.

Despite being ill that first year I went in 2001, (not the alcohol – honestly!). I have been lucky enough to be able to go back every year since. Explaining the Lourdes pilgrimage to those who don't go is always difficult. 'You do what?' was the usual response that I got from work colleagues. But in going to Lourdes as a handmaid, I have received far more than I have given.

It was in Lourdes that I first found the confidence to use my signing skills and communicate at Mass for a group of deaf people. Now I work for Westminster Diocese Deaf Service and as well as going in August on the Catholic Association pilgrimage, I am also going with a group of deaf people in July on the Westminster pilgrimage as their group leader (having borrowed quite a few ideas from the Stonyhurst Pilgrimage).

For me the message of Lourdes has been a profound but simple one – to love God and serve one another; a message which does not stop when the view of the Grotto disappears as the train pulls away from Lourdes, but one which nurtures my Faith all year round.

From Peter Delisle OS 47-53, former president of the Stonyhurst Association, in August 2008:

I have just returned from only my third visit to Lourdes in recent years, so I can hardly claim to be a regular, though I am a devoted pilgrim.

The Stonyhurst contingent of the Catholic Association Pilgrimage, numbered 102. Our party included wives, widows, family, children and neighbours from Hurst Green and Clitheroe. I remain constantly amazed at the overall numbers involved, some five to six million annually. This figure had already been reached in 2008 and with the threeday visit of the Pope next month, a total of nine to ten million is expected this year, the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions.

Bernadette Soubirous, the village girl so honoured and selected by Our Lady, grew to be a nun and a popular saint. As the figures show, her appeal increases.

To see the queues for Confession, anointing, the Grotto and the special baths, let alone the congregations for Holy Mass and Communion, is an inspiring sight, while countless Alleluias fill the air. No wonder this town in the south west corner of France boasts more hotels than anywhere in the country

except for Paris. I imagine they continue to thrive. Long may this continue – a powerful advertisement for our Faith and devotion!

Lourdes will certainly draw me back in the near future to add my tiny Ave to the hymns of praise to Our Lady. *Our Lady of Lourdes, Queen of Heaven, pray for us always.*

From Peter Anwyl former Headmaster of SMH:

For me personally, the 'message' of Lourdes has shifted its focus – away from cures and dramatic changes in health, important and special though these are – to a message of prayer and acceptance. It is interesting to note that the Grotto, once festooned with discarded crutches and walking aids, now has a single crutch hanging from the wall, no doubt to remind us of the healing graces of Lourdes for which we all thank God, yet reflecting what I perceive to be the bigger grace – changes to one's inner self. This is the real miracle of Lourdes: that upwards of six million pilgrims visit each year, uncompromisingly open themselves to Our Lady's grace, and leave with their lives enriched and transformed to a degree which only they can understand.

LOURDES - INTERNATIONAL MILITARY PILGRIMAGE

Lt.Col. Nick Southward OBE, OS 56 – 65

The International Military Pilgrimage started in 1958, as part of the centenary celebrations of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes. The French military invited the German military to join them there in an act of reconciliation and remembrance after the suffering of the two World Wars, and this gathering expanded with the aim of forging peace between nations, with most Western European countries taking part. Since 1991, Central and Eastern European countries, and some African, Asian and South American ones, began to send contingents. Today, some 20,000 servicemen and women come together annually, in uniform, for the pilgrimage: the British contingent numbers some 400, made up of servicemen and women, their families, veterans and the sick.

Taking part in the IMP helps servicemen develop both as Christians and as individuals. Working with a team of chaplains, they play a full part in planning and running the various activities.

They experience the satisfaction, uplift and humility which come from helping those less fortunate than themselves and in witnessing the courage and resilience with which those people deal with their infirmities. It also offers an opportu-



nity for prayer and contemplation and for meeting others from different units, services and nationalities in a variety of religious, ceremonial and social events.

This dimension is important. As servicemen, many have experienced the trauma of conflict and peace-keeping. As Catholics, Lourdes is an opportunity to come together as part of a worldwide community, united by a shared faith and tradition, in pursuit of a common goal. (However, and satisfyingly, the British contingent is not exclusively Catholic and those non-Catholics taking part are second to none in their appreciation of the unique experience that is Lourdes).

Those who have taken part say that making the International Military Pilgrimage is an exhilarating, uplifting and enjoyable experience, which will remain with them for the rest of their lives. The dismissal at the end of the celebrations reminds each pilgrim of their responsibilities: to be a channel of peace in the world and to fulfil God's plan for all.

THE GRAND OPENING OF the new Rosary Garden, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Lourdes, took place on the 18th May 2008, the Lourdes Pilgrimage Reunion Day, well attended by pupils, parents and many OS who had donated towards the garden. Hymns were sung to Our Lady led beautifully by members of the College choir and Fr Twist conducted a short service. Pilgrim Pathfinders, who arrived a little late, also supported the occasion and then everyone retired for refreshments in the Bayley Room. This featured the usual raffle to raise funds for the sick pilgrims and when Fr Hilary Thomas won several bottles of wine, he generously passed them to Peter Shoemith to auction them and raise even more money.

The boys, who should be extremely proud of their achievements, are Tom Fogden, Peter Watts, William Brown, Josh Leyland, Jack Agnew, Tom Davies, Miguel Munoz, Tim Le Breton and Andreas Wilfling. (There are some budding gardeners of the future there.) A special mention should also go to our resident stonemason Mr Terry McGough.



We found the statue of Our Lady in the old mill where she had been quietly decaying for over 30 years having once been at Hodder Place. She was minus an arm and generally in a very sorry state. Terry spent many hours working on her and anyone who sees her now will realise what a superb job he has done.

Adrian Bidwell

VISION

An account of the Stonyhurst connection with Lourdes would be incomplete without a mention of the musical Vision.

IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW YEARS for musical writers **Dom Hartley OS 77-86** and **Jonathan Smith OS 82-87**. Their musical *Vision*, which premiered at Stonyhurst in 2002, enjoyed a CD launch in 2004 at Drury Lane in London, sponsored by Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. Steve Balsamo, who reduced Webber to tears by his portrayal of Jesus in the West End performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, sings two of the tracks on the *Vision* CD and described the show as 'awesome'.

The show, a modern re-telling of the Lourdes story, has had an excellent 2008, achieving its African premiere in Lagos, Nigeria in May. *Vision* was performed by the Playhouse Initiative at the Muson Centre, Nigeria's largest theatre, and was incredibly well received by a paying public, few of whom had ever visited France. "There were times when I had to pinch myself to remind myself that I was still in Nigeria!" said one audience member, who was transported to the

little Pyrenean town by the beautifully staged show. The producer, Uche Nwokedi, now has ambitions to take his cast of young Nigerian actors and actresses to Lourdes to perform there.

In addition, the St Ives Youth Theatre performed *Vision* to great acclaim in Cambridgeshire in July. This vibrant theatre company also took the show on tour, performing in Liverpool and Manchester, putting on two enthusiastically received performances at Stonyhurst in September on its way back home.

St Ives plans to take *Vision* to the Edinburgh Fringe, eager to take the inspiring message of the show to a wider audience. This young theatre company relies entirely on grants and donations, the dedicated producers (all voluntary) are desperately trying to raise the considerable amount of money needed for Edinburgh. If anyone out there can help, please contact the show's producer, Jonathan Salt, at: jonathan@ojemba.com

www.visionthemusical.co.uk

THE SODALITY HAS continued to meet each Thursday at 6.30 to say Compline in the Sodality Chapel. Numbers have been boosted by several new members of staff. Whilst the core element remains quite small, at times the attendance has been up to twenty.

In addition to the weekly meditations from Fr Twist and Miss Young, there have been two extended talks, both of which drew a large audience. The first was given by Fr Augustine Conor OS 90-95, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal. Fr Augustine spoke of his experiences as a pupil at Stonyhurst and how, despite the appearance of a strong Catholic community, his religious life was, at times affected by negative peer pressure. He saw the challenge of all current believers in the College as being one of how to bear the most effective witness to Christ in times when, Christianity and Catholicism in particular, are often treated with cynicism and indifference. He presented the antidote as being nothing new, simply prayer and increased participation in the sacramental life of the College. Another talk was given by Matthew Nicholls, a recent graduate from the John Paul II Institute in Washington DC. He spoke on the topic, 'Humanae Vitae Forty Years On - Did the Church Get it Wrong?' This was an engaging presentation which clearly demonstrated how Pope Paul VI's pronouncement of 1968 had a prophetic resonance. He developed his themes through several well chosen examples and references to Pope John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body'.

There have been two New Rite Latin masses in the Sodality Chapel last term. These have been initiated by Mr Mann, Director of Music. The most recent was for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in which a full twelve verses of the hymn, 'Immaculate Mary' were rousingly sung. This was followed by coffee and chocolate in the Emmaus Centre.

This term there will be a series of short talks each Thursday presented by several different members of staff. The talks will be broadly catechetical in nature but will include vignettes on issues such as, how Popes are elected, religious art and the relationship between science and religion.

Michael Turner

WHAT MAKES STONYHURST DIFFERENT?

ANDREW JOHNSON

The Headmaster of Stonyhurst outlines future developments for the College

IT MUST HAVE BEEN AN exciting moment when Pope Benedict addressed the recent General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, which took place about a year ago. This was only the 35th such congregation in the Society's history, and it gathered together Provincial Superiors from all over the world to elect a new General Superior of the Society following the resignation of Fr Peter Hans Kolvenbach. I am sure it was even more exciting when the Superiors heard the Pope tell them that the church, and by implication the world, needed the Jesuits. However, for lay people, the most exciting part of all was that the church also needs the Jesuits' lay collaborators, people like you and me, to help the Society in its modern mission in Britain and the world today.

So, what is the modern mission of the Jesuits in which we are invited to participate? Our own Provincial Superior, Fr Michael Holman, is clear: our mission is to reveal the face of Christ to those who do not know Him, or for whom His face has become disfigured or distorted. As Headmaster of Stonyhurst, I see one of my key challenges as placing and maintaining the College firmly at the service of the Society's modern mission. This is not a new aim, and comes very much within the Stonyhurst tradition of prayer and service. After all, the Stonyhurst children's holiday week has been going for more than 30 years now, the Lourdes pilgrimage for much longer than that, and the Sodality since 1609.

However, the documentation from the 35th General Congregation also speaks of how we reach people today, perhaps especially our young people, and it suggests that we need to find *new words*, faithful to the message, but which are comprehensible to young people growing up in our aggressively secular society. New words, indeed, which will

help us to prepare our young people to be leaders who will make a contribution for the common good, and will feel willing to participate in the church, despite the prevailing materialistic and agnostic values of our times.

This is why, at the College, we have recently introduced Prayers for Peace on Mondays, and Ignatian Prayer on Tuesdays, why we have an annual retreat off-site for every Playroom, why we have developed a link with Faith Primary School in Everton (one of the most deprived areas of Britain) and, above all, why we have developed the Arrupe volunteering programme, aimed at pupils in Higher Line. I am, personally, absolutely delighted that, during this academic year, almost two thirds of our 115 Poets either have volunteered, or continue to volunteer, in the local community. The very experience of working in an old people's home, or a school or a hospice will have changed at least some of them. But, crucially, and this is the more difficult bit which makes what they have done truly Ignatian, we need to make sure that our Poets and Rhetoricians continue to reflect upon their experience, that they start to think for themselves, rather than always thinking in the way that society wants them to think, and so start to become contemplatives in action. This is what I mean when I say that Stonyhurst must be a counter cultural school, where young people genuinely develop the

intellectual, spiritual and emotional capacity, and the courage, to stand up for their beliefs. This is why, despite being an independent school offering an excellent boarding (or day) education like many others, Stonyhurst really *is* different.

I believe it is for our approach to Ignatian and Catholic values, and for our practical, grounded approach to *cura personalis*, which sees each pupil individually challenged, through their tutor among others, to give of their very best in all that they do to the greater glory of God, that we continue to see, despite the current economic malaise, healthy interest in a Stonyhurst boarding education, and above all in Higher Line.

Throughout its 400 year history, Stonyhurst has changed and adapted to (sometimes really quite difficult) circumstances. It is perhaps unsurprising, therefore, that the College and Saint Mary's Hall have changed a fair bit over the past twenty years or so. Both schools are genuinely co-educational with, currently, just under 460 pupils at Stonyhurst College, of whom 300 are boarders, and 270 pupils at St Mary's Hall, including 50 boarders. It is interesting to note that, whereas in Lower Grammar, just over half of our pupils board, in Higher Line well over three quarters are boarders. This is partly because some of our day pupils see the benefits of the opportunities boarding gives them, but also because of our increasingly important intake of young people into Higher Line.



Right: The contractor, Michael Conlon of Conlon Construction Ltd, and Fr Adrian Howell SJ, OS 55-64, governor of the College and Jesuit Superior signing the contract for the work on the new Higher Line building project.

COMMITTEE REPORT

“SPIRITU, CORDE, PRACTICE”

These new pupils come from all corners of the world: recent new entrants have come from London, the South East, Scotland, the Midlands, Yorkshire, Gibraltar, Malta, Germany, France, Spain and Mexico, as well as from the North West of England. Some are the sons or daughters of OS, though most are not and join us because they know of our reputation, or because they want a Jesuit Catholic education. I believe it says something about the Stonyhurst community that new entrants into Higher Line are able, so quickly and effectively, to embrace *Quant Je Puis* and to involve themselves so fully in the opportunities here. Currently, four of our thirteen Committee members joined the College in Poetry, as did one of the leading actors in last term's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as a recent joint Head of the Line, and any number of young people who have taken part in the *Arrupe* volunteering programme.

It is in this context that we launched last summer the ongoing *Building our Future* appeal, both to raise money for bursaries and also to raise funds to develop the campus, especially for Higher Line. I understand perfectly well that, since we launched the campaign, the UK and world economies have nosedived, and that people who may have been able to help us might, temporarily at least, be unable to do so. That is why our newly appointed Development Director, Jonathan Parris, an experienced charities fundraiser, will be focussing upon raising more funds for bursaries, to help those who might have been affected by the downturn, and make it possible in the longer term for more young Catholics whose families would otherwise struggle to pay, to benefit from a Stonyhurst

education. He will of course also be seeking to raise funds wherever possible for the developments outlined in the *Building our Future* literature.

However, despite the credit crunch, I am pleased that we are now in a position to embark upon phase one of our Higher Line building developments: the construction of forty new boarding bedrooms to accommodate those who, as I have outlined above, are keen to benefit from boarding at Stonyhurst during Higher Line. We are able to do this thanks to a number of generous donations, and also thanks to an undertaking from the Jesuits to support, from the Stonyhurst endowment, the remaining cost of the new building. Funds borrowed from the endowment will, of course, need to be replaced in due course. It is, however, a mark of the Society's confidence in, and ongoing commitment to, Stonyhurst that the Jesuits are prepared to underwrite this project. The building will be ready for September 2010 but will initially be used to accommodate Higher Line boarding boys who would otherwise be in the New Wing while we also bring that accommodation up to the highest possible standard.

As ever, the Governors and I are very grateful to all the Stonyhurst family, which offers such steadfast support in the work we are seeking to do. I am proud to be at the helm of our fine school at a time when we have such ambitious plans for our future. A future in which, rooted in the modern mission of the Society of Jesus, we seek to nurture an increasing number of young men and women for others, young men and women of faith, young men and women with sufficient confidence and clarity of thought to make a difference in the world.



NORTH ELEVATION

Above: the North Elevation of the new Higher Line building, and below, a computer generated graphic of how it will appear to the left of the Old Infirmary building.



YOUR COMMITTEE HAS MET five times in the last year. The quarterly telephone meetings cover administrative matters (organization of events, election of committee members, finances, and distribution of grants for example); at another level we have been pushing ahead with our review of our aims and activities, a process initiated at our meeting with Fr Holman SJ in December 2007 and which we have called ReVision.

In the spring we interviewed many interested parties, from the Headmaster to the head of Jesuit Missions, and put together a draft discussion paper. On 22nd November 2007, at a full day meeting at Farm Street, we reached a number of conclusions, summarised below.

Our task is now to put these aims into action; for that, we need your help-see "Situations Vacant"!

OUR MEMBERS

Current situation; we are in touch with 4,500 members (OS, parents and staff); about 1,000 attend events each year. We know that we have potentially nearly double that number of members.

Aims: to make contact with and involve many more members, to hold more information about them, and to contact them more frequently.

Reason: we exist for our members. Our activities must suit, benefit, and involve them.

Means: by tracking down lost members through e.g. recruitment of 'playroom reps' and overseas/regional secretaries and by involving members of staff; by making more use of the database, Newsletter, website, email and Facebook; by asking members for more information about how they might help in furthering the Association's aims e.g. involvement with charities, experience overseas, potential for giving careers advice or talks at the College, preparedness to assist with organizing events, pilgrimages, writing for the Newsletter, working with St Omers Press. Above all by making our aims and activities under the other headings relevant to our members so as to engage them in what we are aiming to do.

OUR COLLEGE

Current situation; we assist and are involved with the College on a number of levels, not least in providing financial assistance (e.g. the Sodality Chapel) and annual scholarships.

Aims: to be the College's window into the outside world, acting as 'elder sibling' in assisting pupils in that transition and wherever possible using our resources, financial and human, to maximise the benefit pupils receive from their education at the College. To act as a 'gathering point' for staff, present and past, both teaching and support.

Reason: the support for Jesuit education at the College is a simple but genuine 'thank you' for what we ourselves received.

Means: by supporting the College in all it does, and in whatever way we can, financially, through the provision of speakers, careers advisers, by giving work experience, by assisting with expeditions, by involving pupils, staff and parents in all we do, pilgrimages, retreats, events. By using the College for some of our activities. By informing new parents and new staff about ourselves, by making them welcome, by liaising closely with pupils in Higher Line, by providing them with information about how the Association can help them

OUR FAITH

Current situation; the Association has supported the Lourdes pilgrimage and the Easter Retreat. It has funded the Prayer Book, and operates the St Omers Press. It has organised 'one off' pilgrimages e.g. to Rome, and regular reflective walks-Pilgrim Pathfinders.

Aims: to continue the development and formation of our faith to enable us to live out our faith more fully, to find God in all people and all things, and to enable us engage with and transform our secular world in a positive and human way.

Reasons: as a Jesuit Alumni Association, one of primary aims is to continue to support the deepening of our members' understanding of who Christ is through inter alia their private and public prayer life (spirituality) and through their involvement with the Church.

Means: by increasing or facilitating the provision of particular retreat days for undergraduates / singles / young marrieds / families / the retired at Jesuit Spirituality Centres / Stonyhurst / St John's, by encouraging involvement with Ignatian spirituality through the Sodality/Christian Life Communities/resources on the web/retreats, by swapping notes about how to contribute to our parishes and university chaplaincies, by contributing

to debate on spiritual matters through the Newsletter or St Omers Press.

ACTION IN OUR WORLD

Current situation: the Association through its members, the College and its events, supports a myriad of charitable activities.

Aims: to encourage our members to ask what more can we do, what more can we give, in every area of life, to generously place our talents at the disposal of others, especially the most needy, to work towards a more just world.

Reasons: as men and women of faith, striving to be "for others", deeds speak louder than words; "when the hand touches the heart is transformed"; our main purpose is to integrate the service of faith and the promotion of justice, to foster through action the unbreakable bond between love of God and love of neighbour.

Means: by continuing to support all the 'good works' of the College, and those that have been spawned by it and the Association (e.g. Lourdes, the Children's holiday weeks). By encouraging (financially and by for example providing local OS and other Jesuit alumni contacts abroad, language and skills help) OS old and young to be involved with projects such as Jesuit Mission Volunteers, Jesuit Refugee Service, Jesuit Volunteers, Jesuit schools abroad, and similar. By providing a matching network of funds, ideas, and people, eager to cooperate in such projects. By lobbying for change (third world debt etc), and in promoting "Living Simply and Justly". By adopting Eagle Aid more positively as our charity through which to help fund projects throughout the world. By using our international links to greater effect.

I would like to thank your Committee for all the hard work that they have put in to bring ReVision to this stage, and in particular to thank Emma Wotton, who, despite having her first baby, Joseph Xavier, in the midst of this process, was able to help with the fact finding and interviews, and to put together the draft papers for us. I hope that you will all now reciprocate the efforts that have been made on your behalf by supporting the Committee positively, by which I mean offering your prayers, practical help and wise guidance, as we begin to implement ReVision.

Christopher Page

JAN GRAFFIUS

Higher Line Pupils working in the Bay Library have discovered exotic creatures lurking in Conrad Gesner's Historia Animalium – and put them to good use.

SOME MIGHT FIND IT surprising that the historic libraries at Stonyhurst contain a large number of books that were once included on the Vatican's Index of Forbidden Books. Many of these were famous works by authors who had written one suspect book, and thus, under the rules laid down by the Holy Office, the writer's entire oeuvre was condemned. One of the most beautiful and idiosyncratic of the Index books in the Bay Library at the College is the ground breaking *Historia Animalium* written by the Calvinist scientist, Conrad Gesner, and printed in Zurich in 1551.

Gesner was on the forbidden list for his strongly held Protestant beliefs, and so his academic publications were banned in spite of Gesner's international fame as a scientist. It is understandable that Jesuit scholars would be keen to have access to this book, the first modern work on zoology, which set the standard format for all such books for centuries to come. We do not know, however, when or how the book made its way into the library, but it is possible that the book was part of the scientific publications belonging to the College on the Continent.

During his relatively short life he published 71 books on science and geology, and at his death there were a further 18 manuscripts awaiting printing. *Historia Animalium* was to contain the sum of all available printed information on the animal world, and in addition was to be the first such book to contain illustrations. It is divided into four sections – quadrupeds, amphibians, birds and aquatic life (a fifth section on snakes

was added some years later but does not appear in the Stonyhurst copy.) Gesner included a description of each animal in German, Latin and English, and listed the name of the animal in most European languages. He gathered together all other printed references whether scientific or not, including mythological and biblical sources, as well as contemporary eye witness sightings of some of the more outlandish sea monsters and fantastic beasts which were also included. The unicorn made an appearance, as does the strange Bishop fish, shaped like a cleric in vestments and mitre, illustrated making the sign of benediction. Here was also the first printed description of the European brown rat. The illustrations were drawn by a scientific draftsman on Gesner's staff then engraved onto wood by a professional printer. Each illustration was then hand coloured. The book was hugely popular, and its revolutionary format was copied by succeeding naturalists for the next three hundred years. Much of the fascination for the modern reader lies in the illustrations – the depressed hedgehog, the dyspeptic porcupine, the plaintive seal and the lugubrious spotted English whale among them.

Gesner died in Zurich in 1565, aged only 49, during an outbreak of plague.

A group of Higher Line pupils, working with the Collections, has taken the



illustrations as the starting point of a project to design and print cards which are sold in aid of Learning to Care. They chose six illustrations – a difficult decision to make from over 1000 possibilities – and designed a pack for the cards, which are sold with envelopes. **They are available by post for £5.50 including post and packing, from College Reception. Please make cheques out to 'Learning to Care.'**

Left, a Mountain Goat, and above, a Peacock, both from Conrad Gesner's Historia Animalium, and both featured among the six cards published for Learning to Care.



JIMMY BURNS

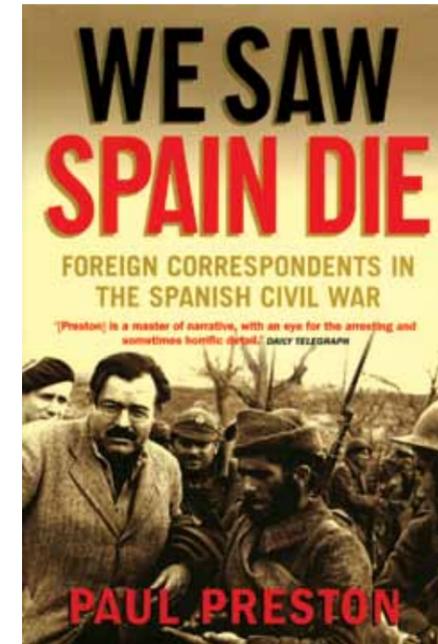
FEW CONFLICTS IN THE twentieth century have stirred political consciences and fired literary imaginations as much as the Spanish Civil War. Spain in the period 1936-39 was a country at war with itself as well as a stage on which a wider ideological and religious struggle was played out by men and women of many nationalities.

For the nearly 1,000 newspaper correspondents who went to Spain, covering the conflict was an unprecedented experience. As one of the protagonists, the American reporter Frank Hanighen, put it, "almost every journalist assigned to Spain became a different man some time or other after he crossed the Pyrenees" for he had become a participant in, rather than an observer of, the "horror, tragedy and adventure which constitutes war".

For those supporting the loosely held coalition ranging from socialists to hard-line Communists in the Spanish Republic, the right-wing military uprising in the summer of 1936 represented the dark forces of fascism. The coup fuelled a breakdown of law and order in Republican-held areas with the killing of anyone identified with an oppressive social system, including nuns and priests, prompting incensed reporting, mainly by Catholics, denouncing the "Red terror" that had been unleashed.

And yet, as Professor Paul Preston points out, there were also Catholic journalists who were horrified by the brutality carried out by the rebel military forces or on their behalf by the Axis powers. Such was the case of the Australian Noel Monks, a "pious teetotal Catholic", deeply shocked by the German bombing of civilians in the Basque town of Guernica. This episode, depicted by Picasso, unfortunately showed some English Catholics, such as Arnold Lunn, losing their moral compass thanks to the falsehood they were prepared to disseminate for one of Franco's more sinister spin doctors, Luis Bolin, that Guernica had been bombed by "Red saboteurs".

The involvement of many journalists was physical as well as ideological, with correspondents on both sides facing danger from snipers and enemy aircraft. No journalist was executed or



"disappeared", but several were killed or wounded in action and most had to work in a minefield of censorship and political control. To that extent the Spanish Civil War saw the modern war correspondent come of age.

Preston's compelling account of the journalists involved is coloured by his declared sympathy for the Republican "loyalist" side and what he sees as the betrayal of non-intervention by Britain and France, in contrast to the involvement of Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy on the nationalist side. The involvement of the Soviet Union on the side of the Republic is not ignored, but largely excused.

Thus Preston devotes a whole chapter to Mikhail Koltsov, using his forensic skills of academic enquiry to challenge the suspicion held by some Spanish commentators that "one of Russia's most successful writers and journalists" was a Stalinist stooge and crude propagandist. He concludes that he wasn't.

Preston cannot ignore the overwhelming evidence that among journalists covering the Spanish Civil War few equalled the duplicity of Kim Philby, the Soviet agent who used his credentials as a correspondent with *The Times* reporting favourably on Franco's forces as a cover for his spying activities. And yet

Preston can't resist giving the traitor the thumbs up, speculating that in the end "he did the Francoist war effort some damage". Thankfully the odious Philby is just one of a large cast of colourful and often truly noble and heroic characters who inhabit Preston's latest instalment in a lifelong professional dedication to Spanish contemporary history.

As one would expect from a leading Hispanist historian who counts among his previous works a monumental biography of Franco, Preston's latest book on the Spanish Civil War contains much original and detailed research including extensive diary material and personal correspondence. Preston may show a pedestrian style at times in his own writing but the material he uses is rarely turgid.

He takes issue with the pro-Franco lobby in the US. Pro-Franco sentiments were shared by important Catholic intellectuals and literary figures on both sides of the Atlantic. Of these, Evelyn Waugh gets a brief mention. But others, like Douglas Woodruff (then editor of *The Tablet*) and the South African Catholic poet Roy Campbell, are ignored. No mention either of Graham Greene, who was notable by his absence from Spain during this period, politically finding it impossible to come down in favour of one side or the other. If Greene's sympathies lay anywhere it was with the Basques, many of whom were both Catholic and anti-Fascist.

On balance, though, this is required reading for anyone interested in Spain or war reporting, with some moving and incisive reportage deservedly selected for inclusion. Undoubtedly there will be *Tablet* readers who will agree with one of Preston's personal favourites, *Daily Telegraph* correspondent Henry Buckley, "a devout Roman Catholic with radical social instincts", who commented that much as he disliked the burning of churches, he felt that the people in Spain who professed most loudly their Catholic faith were the most to blame for the poverty that existed on the eve of the military coup. Amen to that.

Review by Jimmy Burns OS 66-71 published in the Tablet 13 December 2008. We Saw Spain Die, by Paul Preston, Constable £20. Copies can be ordered from the Tablet bookshop for £18: tel 01420 592974.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER 2008

JAY CHITNIS

THE 2008 STONYHURST Association Annual Dinner was held on September 20th at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, the first time it has been held other than at the College, or in London, Oxford or Cambridge.

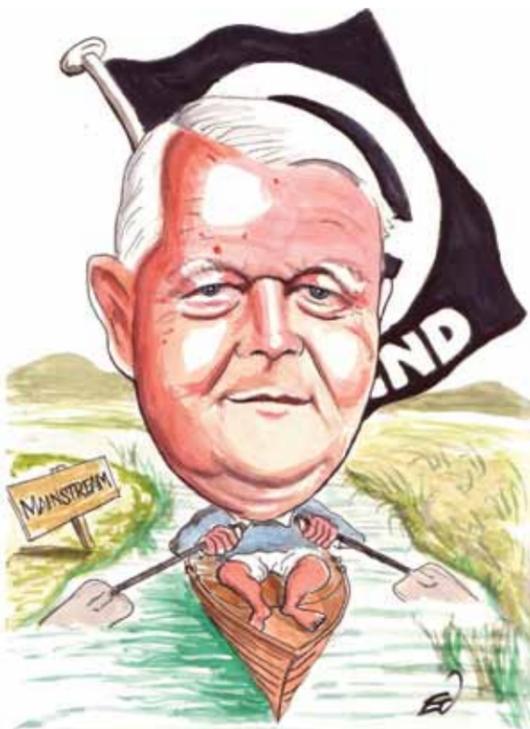
Since the venue had been deemed suitable for the dinner of the G8 leaders when they met in Birmingham, we decided that it was appropriate for this meeting of the Stonyhurst family.

After the very wet summer the weather that weekend was excellent and those arriving early for the dinner were able to enjoy a walk around the magnificent gardens and then many enjoyed their pre-prandial drinks on the terrace, to the sound of a harp being played just inside.

One hundred and fifty one sat down to dinner and if the sound level was any measure, the food and wine were greatly enjoyed. After the loyal toast, the President introduced the guests and expressed his gratitude to Michael Joseph for his unfailing support and to Beverley Sillitoe, Association Secretary, for once again organising the dinner so efficiently. Unfortunately Beverley was unable to be present due to the sudden illness of her husband.

The Guest of Honour, Bruce Kent (OS 43-46), a long time campaigner for Nuclear Disarmament, spoke wittily of his time at the College during the later years of World War II and of the contribution the Jesuits made to his education. He received great applause from an audience, many of whom were too young to be aware previously of his background. One such OS commented: Here was a man of latter years but still of clear mind. He recalled people and events which amused him and made him think. His polite irreverence was an example of the blend of conformity and dissent which a good education should give. How do we manage to balance the affluence and privilege of being educated at a school like Stonyhurst with our mission to influence change for the disadvantaged, and do we alert others and especially our offspring to that Christian duty. Both Bruce and Father Paul Symonds in his homily next

morning reminded us that our Stonyhurst education gave us the opportunity to be in the right place at the right time, and to recognise the battles we should choose to fight, however much dissenting from the establishment view. Bruce seemed to epitomise this by his life at the College, his religious life and his work for CND among other causes. His wit and energy were a delight, even if the merchant bankers and managing directors present felt amusingly uncomfortable.



Above: Bruce Kent as portrayed by the Tablet, February 2008. Reproduced by kind permission of the cartoonist, Edward Penting: www.edscaricatures.com

He was followed by the Headmaster of the College, Andrew Johnson, who highlighted the increasing number of pupils at the College and St Mary's Hall and the high ratio of Boarders to Day pupils. He referred to the improvement in the exam results at A level, especially in the more difficult subjects, Modern Languages, Maths, Physics and Chemistry, and he spoke of the sporting tours, the Pilgrimage to Lourdes, the partnership with the Faith School in

Liverpool for Grammarians, and the Arrupe scheme of voluntary service for Poets working with a specialist school for the disabled, in homes for the elderly, a hospice, Cafod and charity shops, with riding for the disabled and support for the homeless. He told us of the building work and refurbishment already undertaken and this led on to importance of the Appeal for £6m over five years and £10m over ten years, to provide facilities as good as anywhere and to provide accessibility to this education with bursaries. He assured us that under the new administrative arrangements, Stonyhurst would continue to be a Jesuit work, with the Provincial being the President of the Governors. He concluded by asking for our prayers, our donations and legacies and our support by spreading the news about the education provided by the College.

He was followed by the Heads of the Line who had had a harrowing journey to Birmingham, due to no fault of their own. Nicholas Isola referred to some of the successes in Sport especially Rugby while Samantha Leach spoke of the opportunities offered by the College in the Arts. She then encouraged us to share in the prayer life of the College by reciting the Prayer of St Ignatius together.

After dinner there was much mingling and renewal of acquaintance such that it was an effort to expel the company from the Botanical Gardens by the witching hour of midnight.

The following morning the beautiful chapel at the nearby St Paul's Convent was comfortably full with both older and young OS and a most prayerful Mass was concelebrated, with the Association chaplain, Fr Billy Hewett, presiding. John Hartley played the organ to his usual high standard and Fr Paul Symonds from Belfast, a previous Playroom master at the College, delivered a most thought provoking homily.

Coffee in the adjacent cloister garden, again in welcome sunshine, drew the OS gathering to a somewhat reluctant closure.

Jay Chitnis OS 44-50 is the President of the Stonyhurst Association



Scenes from the Dinner, clockwise from left: Bruce Kent speaking, the Chitnis clan, joint Heads of the Line Samantha Leach and Nicholas Isola, Bruce Kent with Fr Tom Shufflebotham SJ, and Mary Williams with her daughter Amelia, OS 06



LEST WE FORGET... OS WAR GRAVES TOURS

PAUL GARLINGTON

Paul Garlington of SMH has been visiting and guiding tours to the battlefields of the Western Front for 20 years and recently led the England Rugby team around the Somme before their World Cup campaign. This year he is organising tours for small parties of four or five people to visit the places where OS fought and fell during World War 1.

IN 1914, STONYHURST RESPONDED to the call to arms in a fashion which was typical of its ethos; by the end of the war 1,012 had seen active service and 394 had become casualties of whom 168 died. The figures represent a significant sacrifice.

The tours will endeavour to include visits to many OS graves. Here are a few examples of the Stonyhurst men who fell in action:

George Archer-Shee, the 'Winslow Boy' was killed during the savage fighting of the First Battle of Ypres when the order to retire did not reach his company. They fought to the last man.

Richard Gethin, stood out literally amongst his friends at Stonyhurst, because he was so tall. He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Loos in September 1915.

Michel Amoroso's selfless action was to save the lives of many. An artillery lieutenant, he led his men from their gun battery and set up a machine gun in No Man's Land to help with the recovery of the wounded. He was shot by a sniper from 30 yards.

Charles Griffin wrote regularly, in the currency of the time, to his 'Dearest Mama'. These letters can now be seen in the Stonyhurst Museum in the 'Do room'. His men adored him. After intense fighting near Delville Wood, he was writing letters to the relatives of his men who had been killed that day, when a shell hit the dugout where he was sitting. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial along with five more Stonyhurst men.

Patrick McCusker and Frederick O'Neill, both lieutenants in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, went to Mass on the afternoon of November 12th 1916 as a preparation for 'going over the top' on the following day. They were to fight in the action which would finally capture the village of Beaumont Hamel, which the German Army had stubbornly defended for over four months. Paddy McCusker and Freddie O'Neill, however, would



Above: the graves of Paddy McCusker OS and Freddie O'Neill OS

not survive that day's bitter fighting. The priest who had said Mass for them the day before, knew they were both Stonyhurst men and asked for them to be buried side by side.

Edward Joseph Weld left Stonyhurst before his studies were complete and joined the Royal Artillery, gaining rapid promotion. Near Ypres he was badly wounded by a sniper and taken to hospital at Lijssehoek where several operations failed to locate the bullet. He was attended throughout by Father Tibberghien who himself had been a pupil at Stonyhurst; he later wrote to Edward's parents encouraging them to be strong because their son had given his soul to God. Edward Weld was 17 years old.

One grave which strikes an even greater chord for us at Stonyhurst, is that of Captain Hubert Chronnell, of the North Lancashire Regiment. When war broke out, he left the College to join the Army and was killed in the Third Battle of Ypres. He was buried in the nearby village of Vlamertinghe where his gravestone is identical to all the others except in one respect: his parents chose to mark their grief with the words 'Quant je puis'.

The tours will be of five days duration and Paul explains in depth the course of the major battles of the Somme, Arras and Ypres and how they affected the outcome of the War; he says that myths may well be dispelled in the process.

If you would like to join one of the tours, or to form a party of your own, please contact Paul directly for further details at: St Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 9PU; email p.garlington@stonyhurst.ac.uk



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THINKING FAITH
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www.thinkingfaith.org

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LENTEN TALKS: GUIDANCE IN PRAYER

This begins on Sunday 1st March and runs for five Sundays, 5-6pm. Fr. James Campbell SJ will be speaking on the ways that prayer has been experienced in Christian tradition and leading an exploration into the varieties of praying, for example the use of the Scripture (lectio divina), the use of the imagination, prayerful reflection on life, forms of meditation. All are invited.

114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Due to our ever expanding programme, the Association Office is looking for a paid part time administrative assistant, with a minimum of 15 hours per week. A really good working knowledge of Word, Excel and Access would be necessary, with particular reference to database experience, as would a flexible nature and a great sense of humour. For further details please contact Beverley Sillitoe on 01254 827043 or by email at association@stonyhurst.ac.uk.

STONYHURST ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Would you be prepared to be the contact for Association events? We are looking for contacts to liaise with the Association Office, either as Regional Representatives or as Year Group Representatives, helping to co-ordinate reunions and convivia. Whatever your age, wherever you are, please contact Beverley Sillitoe on 01254 827043 or by email at association@stonyhurst.ac.uk.

LENTEN TALKS @ STONYHURST: 'THE CHALLENGE OF FAITH'

All Welcome - 7.30pm in the Bayley Room, Stonyhurst College
(Visitors - please report to Reception upon arrival)

This is a series of talks on Tuesday evenings in Lent. Speakers will consider 'The Challenge of Faith in a Secular World' and will reflect on how this impacts on their particular ministry and work.

Tuesday, 3rd March Rt. Rev. Bishop Terence Brain, Bishop of Salford

Tuesday, 10th March Fr John McDade SJ, Principal of Heythrop College:
"God, Imagination and the digital mind".

Tuesday, 17th March Sr Josette Zammit-Mangion, Lecturer at Heythrop College:
"The Brother for whom Christ died".

Tuesday, 24th March Fr David Roberts, Parish Priest of Holy Angels, Hale Barns

For further information, please contact Fr. John Twist SJ (email - j.twist.sj@stonyhurst.ac.uk) or Miss Sarah Young (email - s.young@stonyhurst.ac.uk). Telephone : 01254 827009 / 01254 827143

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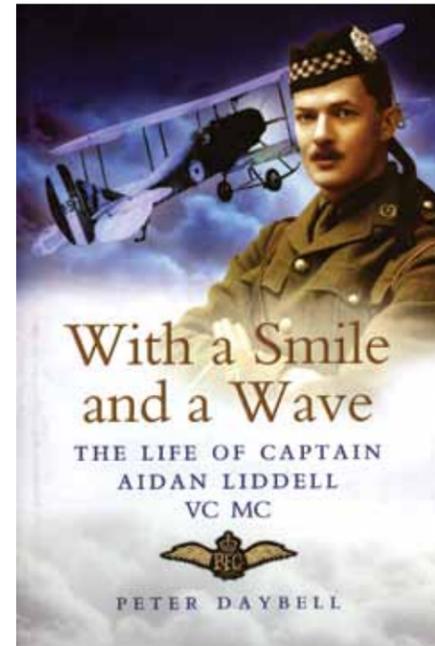
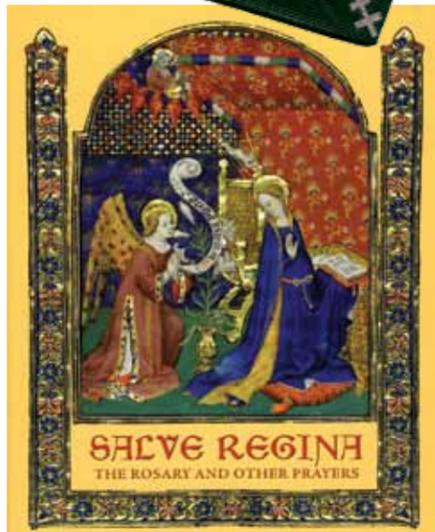


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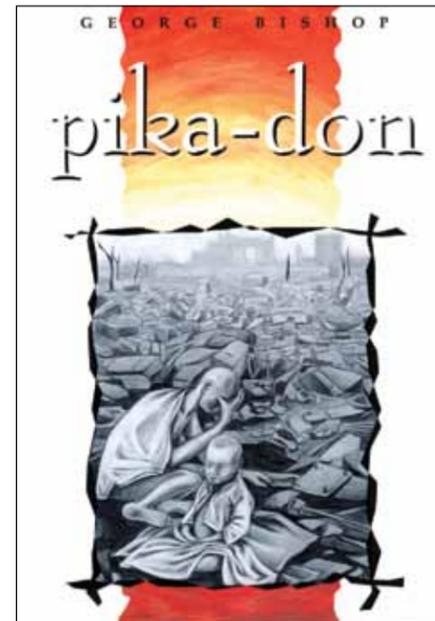
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 Lancashire, BB7 9PZ



Above: Aidan Liddell (OS 00-08) won the fourth air VC in 1915. In *With a Smile and a Wave* Peter Daybell (OS 69) makes use of a wide range of source materials including many previously unseen family papers and photographs.

With a Smile and a Wave provides a vivid picture of the squalor and danger of war, the backbreaking hardship of trench life and the challenges of pioneer air fighting. But it is a story not just of war, but of growing up in a devout and prosperous family, of a Jesuit education at Stonyhurst, and of Edwardian Oxford before the Great War.

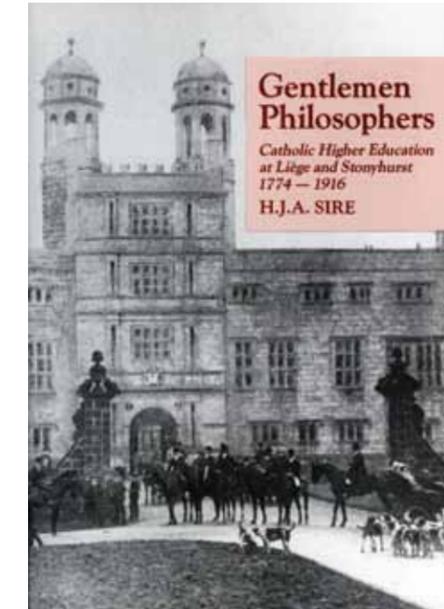
With a Smile and a Wave by Peter Daybell, published by Pen & Sword Books. 304 pages, hardback. £19.99.



Below: In this well-researched and readable account HJA Sire (OS 58-68) describes the role that Stonyhurst played as one of the principal providers of Catholic university education in England. For over 50 years students followed courses of Thomist philosophy developed by the Jesuit community for degrees awarded by London University.

The students—known as Philosophers—were drawn from an elite of the Catholic gentry, national and international. A high-spirited and privileged group, their life outside studies – hunting, shooting and elegant entertainment – is vividly drawn in this inside view of the leading Catholic school of its day.

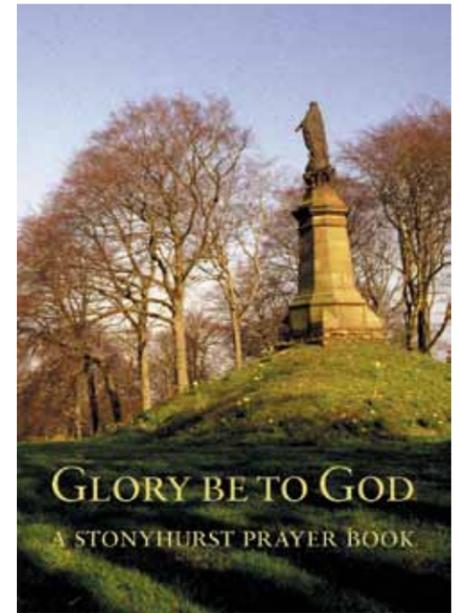
Gentlemen Philosophers by HJA Sire, published by Churchman Publishing. 196 pages, paperback. £8.95.



Left: Hiroshima: hundreds of thousands annihilated in a split second, in the 'flash-bang' – 'Pika-Don' in Japanese. Death, excruciating pain and unexplained sickness scarred humanity.

Fr Pedro Arrupe SJ was among the survivors, leading a small Jesuit community; their experiences of the aftermath, and their Christian response to the suffering, forms the central theme of this book. This is a true story, but as gripping as any novel; read it and you will walk through the ruins of Hiroshima with Pedro Arrupe and his colleagues, and witness the horrors they saw.

Pika-Don, by George Bishop, published by Fisher Miller Publishing. 160 pages, paperback. £10.00.



Above: *Glory be to God*, a Stonyhurst Prayer Book, St Omers Press. Second edition, with minor corrections.

128 pages, hardback. £9.95.

Books can be ordered from the Association: please add £1 for postage per item.

Below: Many OS will remember Andrew Henderson, who taught art at the College for 18 years. This is an exciting story, drawn from eyewitness sources, of the 100 years which saw the college go from a small group of refugees to the leading, trend-setting centre of excellence in Catholic education of its time.

The Stone Phoenix, by Andrew Henderson, published by Churchman Publishing. 180 pages, paperback. £9.95.

