

AMDG

# STONYHURST association news



SPRING 2026  
VALE ET DEUS TE BENEDICAT JOHN BROWNE



The Association Chairman, **Brendan Roche OS 82**, and President, **Harry Dickinson OS 94** presents **John Browne** with a limited edition copy of Pete The Street's painting of Stonyhurst's west wing at his farewell tea party in the Top Ref on 13th February 2026

# EDITOR'S NOTE

This edition says farewell to John Browne, the Headmaster at Stonyhurst since 2016, who, in February, left the College to take up a new role at St Aloysius' College in Sydney, Australia. John makes his own valediction within this publication but, perhaps, without sufficiently noting his leadership during the 'COVID years' as the College navigated those very troubled waters.

A Jesuit education discovers and promotes the strengths within us to make us men and women for others. It identifies weaknesses that need addressing, provides opportunities to increase skills, knowledge and attributes, and provides a safe environment in which to achieve these things and to lead a life of service – *Quant Je Puis*. This has been the core principle supporting all of us who came to Stonyhurst and it is no less true today for those who have been in the College whilst John has been our leader.

We extend our thanks and good wishes to John as he takes his own skills, knowledge and attributes 'down under' to join an ever-increasing number of Australian/ex-pat OS! We welcome Mr William Doherty, who will be taking on the role of Headmaster from 1st May and wish him every success.

As one of the few girls educated at Stonyhurst during the 1970s and the mother of two daughters who entered SMH in 1997, I am delighted to give you a 'heads-up' on next year's planned celebration of co-education at Stonyhurst. Please see the flyer below.

This edition also pays tribute to a vast array of achievements by our alumni to whom we pass on our admiration and congratulations. We pray for the consolation of the family and friends, inside and without the Society of Jesus, on the very sad passing of **Fr Simon Bishop SJ OS 85**. RIP Simon.

That you choose to share this information means that we keep in touch and gain inspiration ourselves. I invite you to keep the information coming by writing to [j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

Please let the Association office know if you have changed your contact details, so that we can keep you up-to-date with what is happening both within the College and in our wider communities.



STONYHURST  
ASSOCIATION

## FROM PUPIL TO PARENT: OUR JOURNEY HAS COME FULL CIRCLE

In 2027, we will celebrate 30 years since SMH and Stonyhurst became co-ed. Women OS across the globe will share stories from their time at school, and beyond. We're planning some very exciting events along the way!

**Would you like to share an achievement that could inspire other OS and current pupils?**

To participate in this campaign and network of OS, please write to the Association with "30 YEARS CO-ED" as the email subject:

[association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



**Kate Barr OS 04**, with her daughters Phoebe and Florence. Kate was in the first intake of girls at SMH in 1997.

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Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe  
Lancashire BB7 9PZ  
Tel: 01254 827043

Email: [j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk)  
[association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association.stonyhurst.ac.uk)  
Editor: Julie Macfarlane

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRENDAN ROCHE OS 82



AMDG.

It is worth repeating that the Stonyhurst Association is far more than a club or network for nostalgic old boys and old girls, though there is nothing wrong with a bit of nostalgia or a supportive network. The objects of the Association are, in summary, to unite and associate past and present pupils and friends of Stonyhurst in the support of all or any one of the following: the advancement of education and of the Roman Catholic religion,

the relief of poverty, the relief and prevention of sickness, disease, physical or mental disability. At its best, the Association supports its members to promote and sustain the Christian/Catholic values that we were taught at the College, to be women and men for others, even when this puts us in conflict with the prevailing values in society.

One of our members, who recently died in Birmingham on 4th January after a long illness, was **Fr Simon Bishop SJ OS 85**. He was all that we should aspire to be. The video recording of his funeral is currently available on **YouTube** and is well worth watching, especially the homily given by a visibly moved Fr Michael Holman SJ. According to Fr Michael, Simon had been described as exhibiting all the fruits of the Spirit set out in St Paul's letter to the Galatians, namely love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Not long before he died, Simon reflected on his life and ministry in an interview: *"I suppose my Jesuit life has changed, and I have been asked to be in different places and do different things. Most recently I have needed to go to hospital for various treatments and, lying on an operating table or in surgery or follow-up treatment with a necessity for all sorts of other treatments, in the quiet there, I have found myself saying that simple prayer: There is nowhere else that I would rather be. Somehow the Lord is asking me to be with Him here in this place, at this time"*.

Simon was one, heroic, witness to the values we learned at school, but, as chair of the Association, I have been privileged to see many others among our membership. I was recently moved when I saw

how many members of one year group (or playroom, I should say) rallied around one of their contemporaries who was experiencing significant difficulties. I was pleased that the Association, as a whole, also played its part in providing support.

I am writing this in Lourdes where I am spending four days as part of the organisation of the Stonyhurst/Catholic Association pilgrimage which, this year, starts on 21st August 2026. The sanctuary authorities are putting on several events, including some workshops, one of which is entitled *Commitment Scars Young People: True or False? How would you answer that?* For my part, I am unsure, but hope the answer is "false".

The Stonyhurst pilgrimage forms an important part of the larger Catholic Association pilgrimage, together with the dioceses of Southwark, East Anglia, Northampton and Clifton and a group for disabled children and their families, called the Glanfield group. This year is the 125th anniversary of the first Catholic Association pilgrimage to Lourdes. The central purpose of the CA is to bring the sick and disabled to Lourdes. We can't do this without a large pool of helpers (doctors, nurses, and lay helpers of all shapes and sizes) and without the funds to subsidise those with limited means. I hope you might think of joining or supporting us this year.

The pilgrimage is from 21st-28th August 2026. You will be very welcome. Just contact the Association office and they will put you in touch with Beverley Sillitoe, who is now managing the pilgrimage, or have a look at the CA website (Google CA pilgrimage Lourdes). A special experience is guaranteed.

Finally, on a more prosaic note, may I remind members that the Association is separate from the College and is not in charge of the conditions under which members are allowed access either to the College or to the Collections. For safeguarding and security reasons, members must be accompanied when they visit and there is generally a charge to access the Collections, to support the significant expense of its upkeep. If you would like to visit, do contact the Association office, giving as much notice as you can, and Jo-anne and Layla will do all they can to ensure that your visit is an enjoyable and smooth experience.

LDS.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HARRY DICKINSON OS 94



*“Once to every man and nation, comes the moment to decide...”*

On Friday 13th February, St Peter's Church at Stonyhurst resounded with these dramatic and powerful words, set to music worthy of their weight – the annual Mass for the Martyrs of St Omer's.

I suspect it was the first time I had attended this Mass since my schoolboy days in 1994. Yet some

things at Stonyhurst have a curious ability to collapse time. The power of the congregation in full voice, the swell of the organ, brass, choirs, and the solemnity of a procession led by an archbishop had a profound effect on all who were present.

The line that has stayed with me, “By the light of burning martyrs...” is a phrase that arrests you. A vivid, unsettling image – but also a reminder. We are not commemorating distant abstractions or decorative history. We remember twenty-one men formed within our own educational lineage who chose courage, faith, and conviction over compromise – at the ultimate cost.

That legacy belongs not only to the College, but to all of us who have passed through it.

This Mass also marked the final official act of the outgoing Headmaster, John Browne, who after ten years now heads to pastures new in Australia. We wish John, and his family, every success and happiness. His tenure has coincided with a period of undeniable challenge for independent schools, not least the introduction of VAT on fees. Against that backdrop, the fact that Stonyhurst stands today in a position of financial strength is no small achievement.

During the Mass, I found myself reflecting on what the Association might wish to say in gratitude. I settled on something simple: John Browne is our 78th Headmaster since the College's founding in 1593. Four hundred and thirty-three years. Wars, suppression, exile, financial crises, cultural revolutions – and still the chain holds. Each Headmaster merely one link among many, yet each link essential. John Browne's link has been one of stewardship, stability, and care for “the College we love”. For that, those of us who cannot imagine a world without Stonyhurst are profoundly grateful.

Martyrs. Persecution. Longevity. Why do these themes resonate so deeply with OS? Because they speak to continuity. To belonging. To something larger than our individual chapters. But equally, Stonyhurst is not sustained by history alone; it lives through community.

Which leads naturally to a perennial question: what is the point of the Association? At its heart, the answer has always been disarmingly straightforward:

- Friendship
- Support
- Accompanying one another on the journey

The Association exists because Stonyhurst does not end at the top of the avenue. It is carried forward in lifelong friendships, shared experiences, mutual encouragement, professional networks, and the quiet but powerful reassurance that there is a global family bound by common formative years. Whether gathered at formal dinners, reunions, networking events – or indeed skiing with seven OS contemporaries, as I did two weeks ago – the underlying truth is the same: Stonyhurst relationships endure. Those formative years matter more than we sometimes admit. They shaped our instincts, our values, our sense of humour, our resilience, our loyalties. They introduced us to AMDG, to QJP, to the curious blend of seriousness and mischief that seems permanently embedded in the OS psyche. They also gave many of us friendships that have outlasted careers, relocations, triumphs, disasters, and grey hair.



From L-R: all OS 94, **Matthew Cartwright-Terry**, **Simon Cannon**, **James Hall**, **Matthew Pugh**, **HD**, **Celestino de Freitas**, **Giles Burke-Gaffney** (not in photo but on trip) – **John McGinley OS 92**.

As my own tenure as President draws to a close, I do so with a deep sense of gratitude.

Gratitude to the Committee, to our members, to the College, and to the many individuals whose generosity – of time, energy, and resources – sustains the Association's vitality. I am particularly proud of the renewed momentum behind the President's Fund, which embodies in practical form the Association's enduring commitment to supporting those Association members in need of help.

In May, I will hand the chain of office to **Jonty Warneken OS 90**. Jonty brings huge energy, massive enthusiasm, and a spirit of adventurous Stonyhurst camaraderie (few Presidents can claim ice-swimming credentials)! I know he will lead the Association with distinction, humour, and an unwavering commitment to friendship and connection. Jonty – welcome!

To conclude where we began:  
*“By the light of burning martyrs...”*

A reminder of sacrifice. Of conviction. Of continuity. But also, of illumination. Each generation of OS inherits not only a history, but a responsibility – to remain connected, to support one another, to sustain the community, and to ensure that the College and Association continue to flourish for those who follow. It has been an honour to serve as your President. AMDG

# DIARY OF EVENTS

Details will be published on the website [association.stonyhurst.ac.uk/association-events/diary-of-events/](http://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk/association-events/diary-of-events/)  
email: [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk) with any queries

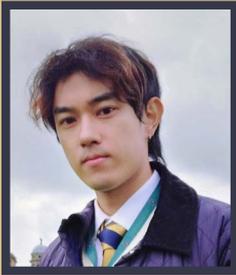
DATE	EVENT	NOTES
7th March 2026	OS vs College Wanderers Football	Stonyhurst   3.30pm
7th March 2026	Munich Association Gathering	Georgenhof, Friedrichstraße 1, 80801 München   11.30am
20th March 2026	Yorkshire Association Gathering	The Minster Inn, 24 Marygate, York   From 6.00pm
23rd March 2026	OS Open Day	OS Open Day (including optional Collections tour) Stonyhurst   10.00am <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
18th & 19th April 2026	OS 2006 Reunion	Stonyhurst   from 11.00am <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
17th May 2026	OS 1976 Reunion	Stonyhurst   12.00pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
13th June 2026	OS vs College Wanderers Croquet & Cricket Match	Stonyhurst   11.30am
26th June 2026	College Careers Fair (with OS speakers)	Stonyhurst   TBC
4th & 5th July 2026	OS 2016 Reunion	Stonyhurst   from 12.00pm <a href="#">Click here to register</a>
6th July 2026	OS Open Day	OS Open Day (including optional Collections tour) Stonyhurst   10.00am
12th Sept 2026	OS vs College Wanderers Golf Day & Dinner	Stonyhurst   1.00pm
19th & 20th Sept 2026	OS 1986 Reunion	Stonyhurst   from 11.00am
31st Oct 2026	Association Annual Dinner	Stonyhurst   7.00pm
7th & 8th Nov 2026	OS 1996 Reunion	Stonyhurst   from 11.00am
7th Nov 2026	Ampleforth Matches	Stonyhurst
4th Dec 2026	Farm Street Carol Service	Farm Street   7.00pm
10th Dec 2026	Association Carol Service	St Peter's & Top Ref   7.00pm

# AMBASSADORS' NEWS

The Stonyhurst Association is pleased to introduce two new Ambassadors:

**Jensen So OS 08**, from Hong Kong and **Mark Brinkley OS 07**, in Rome.

The Association is keen to encourage local networking of OS in the region in which you live. If any of our readers would like to become an Ambassador to support the OS in the area of the world in which you live, please contact Jo-anne for more details at [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



HONG KONG  
**Jensen So OS 08**  
[sotsunki@gmail.com](mailto:sotsunki@gmail.com)  
Tel: +852 94440792



ROME, ITALY  
**Mark Brinkley OS 07**  
[markbrinkley89@gmail.com](mailto:markbrinkley89@gmail.com)  
Tel: +39 351 733 5026

## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR AMBASSADORS



AMDG. A Memorable Year Off by your Ambassador **Joe Everatt OS 79**

With its distinguished continental history, Stonyhurst has always seemed to look to Europe. As the end of my time at school approached, having failed to gain a single offer of a place to study fine art, I was completely at a loss for something to do. When the French teacher Jeremy Attlee suggested I go and teach English at the Jesuit school in Reims in France, I jumped at the chance.

I arrived at the Collège St Joseph just days after my eighteenth birthday. In 1979 it was still a boys' school. Built around a charming courtyard, it was relatively spartan, but it made up for this with the richness of its community life. The routines of the staff revolved around the refectory, where clerics and lay people took their meals together. We ate and drank well, wit was appreciated, and conversation was sharp. Mealtimes could be very lively.

As well as the Jesuit community, there was a team of *surveillants*, who were mostly students at the town's university and received their bed and board from the school in return for supervising pupils and carrying out various administrative tasks. Many of them were former pupils at the school. I lived on the same corridor as the *surveillants*. Being somewhere between the pupils and the teaching staff, we behaved at different times like both. In the evenings we either drank beer and played cards together in our rooms, or we watched television with the priests. Although during the week the lay staff outnumbered the clerics, at weekends, when most of the *surveillants* returned home, the priests outnumbered the laymen.

**STONYHURST ASSOCIATION**  
**OS AMBASSADOR EVENTS**

**Munich**  
Stonyhurst Weißwurstfrühstück  
Saturday 7 March 2026 | 11.30 am  
Georgenhof  
Friedrichstraße 1, 80801 München

We are delighted to invite you to a relaxed Stonyhurst gathering in Munich, organised by Matthias Beestermoeller OS 08, our newly appointed OS Ambassador for Munich.

Please simply pay for whatever you order on the day.  
Kindly let Matthias know if you are planning to attend by emailing:  
[matthias.beestermoeller@econ.lmu.de](mailto:matthias.beestermoeller@econ.lmu.de)

**York**  
Yorkshire Stonyhurst Gathering  
Friday 20 March 2026 | From 6.00 pm  
The Minster Inn  
24 Marygate, York

You are warmly invited to join our Yorkshire Ambassadors, Chris Thorpe OS 82 and Rev David Chadwick CO OS 12, for an informal and convivial evening of pints and pizza.

Please note that confirmation is required by Friday 6 March.  
To confirm your attendance, please reply directly by email to [david@yorkoratory.com](mailto:david@yorkoratory.com) or [christhorpe361@btinternet.com](mailto:christhorpe361@btinternet.com)

Reims is known for its superb cathedral, where most of France's kings were crowned. It was also known for preparing priests for the English mission. In later years it became known as the birthplace of champagne.

As the most prestigious school in the town, the class lists at the Collège St Joseph read like a superior wine merchant's list. There were several notable names among the *surveillants* too, including the younger son of the Marquis de Sade. It is distinguished by its *équipes* structure: the school is divided vertically into teams that specialise in creative activities, like photography, theatre, carpentry and bookbinding. There did not seem to be a regime of punishments. If a boy misbehaved, he received a talking-to from his teacher. If he broke the rules again, he received a lecture from the deputy head. And if he misbehaved a third time he had to report to the headmaster.

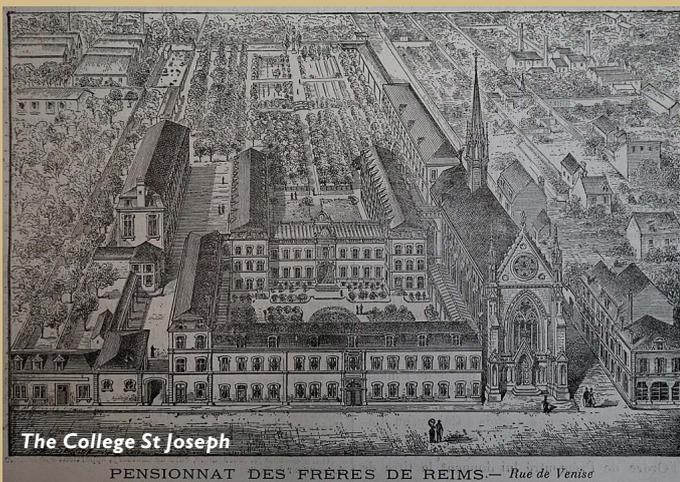
I enrolled as an external student at the town's Ecole des Beaux Arts with the aim of learning drawing and printmaking. The carpentry



teacher at the college supplied me with blocks of wood to make woodcuts. I, in turn, supplied zinc plates prepared with wax ground to an old Jesuit, an amateur artist, who wanted to try his hand at etching, and took them back to the Ecole des Beaux Arts for printing. I bought an old bicycle and explored the Champagne region and sometimes sketched.

At the end of the first term, I was invited to the accountant's office. After calculating my hours and deducting the cost of my board and lodging, it emerged that I was in debt to the school because I had not worked enough hours, so in the next term I tried to remedy this.

Feeling the need for a break from the good living, in the spring half-term I cycled to Paris and back. My route took in the Medieval city of Troyes, the towns of Montargis and Arpajon, the châteaux at Chantilly and Compiègne, and the forest clearing with the railway carriage where the treaty of the Armistice was signed in 1918. The mist on that cold spring morning was so dense that the top of the huge monument depicting the fallen German Eagle was barely visible. It was an impressively beautiful monument to a vanquished foe.



The youth hostel at Troyes was in a former gatehouse to a demolished château: covering two floors built around an arch, it was bigger upstairs than downstairs. In the countryside nearby, the back wheel of my bicycle started scraping against the mudguard, and I had nothing to fix it with. An old man hoeing a field of vegetables came over and offered to help. He went to fetch a tool from his house, hardly more than a shack beside the road, where through the door I could see on the kitchen table a frugal repast of a half-full bottle of wine and a lump of cheese. The lorry drivers in France were not so kind, however, for they enjoyed releasing the hydraulic pressure from their brakes whenever they overtook a cyclist.

My original plan was to trace a large circle around Paris, but when it became clear that there would not be enough time, I cut the journey down by making it a semi-circle instead. The route took me from south to north, straight down the Boulevard St Michel, over the Seine, past Notre-Dame, and out of the city again.

The solitude of those eight days was difficult, but something happened with the language. For the rest of the year, I was more comfortable speaking French than English and even achieved a kind of articulacy that I had never had in my native tongue. Mr Attlee had told me I would receive countless invitations to my colleagues' homes. Until then, to my embarrassment, this had hardly happened; but now, invitations came in from all sides.

When the school accountant calculated my hours again and made a deduction for board and lodging, he agreed that this time I was due for a small payment. But he did not know how to do this, for he doubted that, as a foreigner, I had the legal right to work in France. Promising to look into it, he asked me to come back in a week. When I returned seven days later, he informed me, with some surprise, that, as a citizen of another EEC country, my employment there was legal after all. The EEC had existed for decades, and Britain had been a member of it for five years, but we knew very little about it in those days.



The main entrance

As one of my younger brothers was preparing to start at Stonyhurst, it seemed a good idea to help him get used to living away from home by inviting him to take part in the school's end-of-term summer camp. After telephoning my mother to tell her that Sam was safe in the care of the Marquis de Sade, my father and I set off for a walking holiday in Burgundy. We saw the Charolais cattle market at St Christophe, visited the beautiful towns of Beaune and Dijon, went to Paray-le-Monial and Taizé, and tasted the wines at Meursault.

In the summer holidays I found a manual job in a warehouse of champagne corks, among other things, to be able to stay on in Reims. It was an introduction to French blue-collar life. I continued to live in the college, but when towards the end of August members of staff began returning to work, I realised it was time for me to move on.



The Courtyard

To my parents' slight concern, I was more fluent in French than in English and peppered my speech in both languages with Gallic shrugs and other French mannerisms. In my heart I had not left France. That year taught me I should be studying languages, not art. I was keen to learn another language, and since my French was already good enough, London University's Queen Mary College agreed to let me take a combined degree in two modern languages, beginning Russian from scratch. It is exhilarating when normally closed doors are opened by knowing a foreign language. I am very grateful to the Collège St Joseph and to Mr Attlee for the helping hand they gave me.

The year in France set me on a trajectory of studying and working abroad. I now live in Vilnius in Lithuania (another city with a history of preparing Jesuits for the English mission), and work in various aspects of publishing: editing books and articles, translating, and writing. Having arrived shortly after Lithuania regained its independence, I have seen it go through quite profound changes, and the situation continues to evolve. It is a great honour to be chosen as an ambassador, and I would be very glad to hear from any OS in the Baltic States, or anyone else associated with the school. LDS

# WORKING FOR THE ITALIAN RED CROSS IN ROME



One of our newest Ambassadors, **Mark Brinkley OS 07**, informs us of his work with the Italian Red Cross in Rome – Restoring Family Links Caseworker:

In moments of crisis, one of the first things people do is try to contact family. To organise help, check how they are, or even communicate last wishes – reasons vary, but the reflex is consistent across cultures. The importance of family is recognised

in many traditions, religions and laws, including in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as “the natural and fundamental group unit of society...entitled to protection by society and the State” (Art 16).

Yet crises are also moments where communications break down and families are separated. Every year, thousands of families live the gut-wrenching anguish of losing touch and not knowing the fate of their loved ones, because of wars, disasters and hazardous journeys.

The Red Cross exists to protect human dignity and alleviate suffering. It acts, through the worldwide network of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and delegations of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to keep families together, trace missing family members and restore family contact.



The Italian Red Cross Restoring Family Links Service has volunteers throughout the country, and an office in Rome staffed by the head of the Service and caseworkers including me, whose role is to support and relay information between the network of volunteers in Italy

and the network worldwide – who are both, in turn, in contact with, or searching for, separated families – in order to coordinate searches, exchange family news and organise family reunifications.

What does this mean in practice? For example, a volunteer in Lombardy Region might send us a request from a student in Milan, who is worried because his brother was arrested back home in Syria by an armed group and he doesn't know where or how he is now. We contact the delegation in Damascus, and update the volunteer about what can be done and how long it might take, so that she can reassure and support the student in Milan. The team in Lampedusa call us about a man who was rescued from a shipwreck but can't find his wife. We ask volunteers to search for her among the people evacuated to hospitals in Sicily, where they also look



for a man that the Bangladeshi Red Crescent wrote to us about, whose family have no news since he left Libya. A Red Cross Message arrives from Kinshasa, an open letter collected from a man in a military prison, and we send it to the volunteer responsible for Puglia to deliver to his sister in Bari. And, years after they all fled in different directions from an attack on their village in Burkina Faso, we coordinate between the Red Cross in Dakar and volunteers in Florence to arrange passports, visas and flights, to reunite a mother and her three sons.

How did I end up here? No doubt my eight years at Stonhurst played some role in this, and can at least be credited with an old boarder's appreciation of letters from family.

*The above illustrative examples have been changed and anonymised.*

For more information on the RFL Service and to get help from the nearest branch, families can consult [cri.it/cosa-facciamo/migrazioni/restoring-family-links/](http://cri.it/cosa-facciamo/migrazioni/restoring-family-links/) (in Italy) and [familylinks.icrc.org/how-it-works](http://familylinks.icrc.org/how-it-works) (worldwide).



# SPAIN BY JIMMY BURNS OS 71

I was delighted to join the Stonyhurst gathering in Madrid on 16th January at the Hotel Melia Madrid Serrano along with my two



fellow Ambassadors for Spain: **Brian Douglas OS 83**, **Bernard Arpajou de Araluze OS 20**, and other alumni, their families, and College staff.

The very convivial evening reception of tapas and drinks was hosted by Fr Christopher Cann, the Head of Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall who updated those present with College news and spoke about the importance of the College's global reach, not least the part played by Spanish pupils and parents.

The event follows the equally well attended and much enjoyed OS dinner in Madrid last summer. Hosted by Brian and myself as newly appointed 'Ambassadors', we aim to build on the friendships made at the gatherings we have organised in Madrid and Toledo in recent years, as well as reaching out to a new generation with our young ambassadorial colleague, Bernard.

We hope to strengthen a community of shared Ignatian values and respect for the Stonyhurst family among Spaniards and Gibraltarians, communicating through various means including a shared WhatsApp message group, *Spain&Gib StonyhurstAlumni*, Stonyhurst Link, as well as with the wider Stonyhurst family through the newsletter.

Another piece of good news is that Brian and I are Trustees of the British Spanish Society, a cultural and educational charity active

in both countries with events in Spain and UK, which has Stonyhurst as a partner and a growing number of OS among its members. Among the BSS events being organised in Madrid this year we have a reception at the British Ambassador's residence in September.

*Editor's note: If you wish to be included in any Spanish events, please contact:*

Jimmy Burns jimmy.burnsmaranon@gmail.com

Brian Douglas bj\_douglas@outlook.es

Bernard Arpajou de Araluze bernardarpajou@gmail.com



## YORKSHIRE AMBASSADORS

**Fr David Chadwick OS 12** and **Chris Thorpe OS 82** are the Stonyhurst Ambassadors, originally in North Yorkshire, but now for the entirety of God's Own County.

Association members from the East, South and West Ridings were a little envious of us "Northerners" and so we have decided to include all in our plans. Our role is to manage and encourage the network of OS and Association Members in the county, ensuring that we are a supportive community. We aim to facilitate social events throughout the year. Our first event of 2026 is on Friday 20th March in York (see advert for full details), around Yorkshire Day on 1st August and at a date around Champion Day in early December. The plethora of racecourses in Yorkshire suggests that a future 'Day at the Races' may be a consideration.

We will try to advertise opportunities for us to support the Stonyhurst teams in Away fixtures in the County. We also recognise that there will be a transitory population of OS undergraduates and postgraduates in our many universities and will endeavour to support and encourage them too.

We have an active WhatsApp group and encourage any Stonyhurst Association Yorkshire residents to join; the Association Office can share details of how to join on [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

If preferred, we will ask the Office to share information by email.



## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR STONYHURST LINK?

Our own networking platform that helps you to reconnect with other OS and members of the Stonyhurst family, see news of events, develop your professional network and help younger OS to seek university and work mentors.

**Explore here: [www.stonyhurstlink.com](http://www.stonyhurstlink.com)** or scan the QR code.



# NEWS



Our Association Office manager, Jo-anne Brown, reports;

You never know what treasure may turn up next in the Stonyhurst Collections. Recently, our Curator of the Collections, Dr Jan Graffius, was tidying some historic books in the Arundell Library, when she found a wallet lodged behind the books. On further inspection, this wallet belonged to an OS who had left the College in 1998. With the help of the Association office, the wallet has been reunited with its owner, **Anthony Downie OS 98**, who now lives in Singapore. Anthony was delighted to receive back his wallet and feels he has an idea who may have pranked him by hiding the wallet all those years ago. If the culprit would like to own up, please contact the Editor!

In November, **Harry Meade OS 74** agreed to take part in a College Digital Media Project run by the Arrupe group called 'Hear My Voice'. The purpose of the project was for pupils to interview and record a podcast with someone who had inspiring stories of overcoming significant challenges in life.

During the podcast, Harry explained how he was born with a genetic eye condition which affected his eyesight throughout his time at Stonyhurst but that he was not diagnosed with the condition retinitis pigmentosa until he was 16.

Harry now has very little sight, and he talked about the challenges throughout his life and how his career developed. After a career which saw Harry work internationally, Harry was offered the opportunity to switch careers to the charity sector and worked for Action for Blind People and later the Royal National Institute of Blind People as a fundraiser until retirement.

### Mini reunion of OS 74

Following a move from London to Colchester, Harry was delighted to welcome **Shane Howie** and **Peter Moss OS 74** for a weekend visit. The photo shows them in front of the Grade II listed tower (1720) at nearby Walton-on-the-Naze.



**Tom Morris OS 82** directed a production of *Othello* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, London, between October 2025 and January 2026. It starred David Harewood, Toby Jones & Caitlin FitzGerald.

Tom Morris is an award-winning director, writer and producer, best known for co-directing *War Horse*. He was awarded the OBE in Queen's Birthday Honours List June 2016, and an article about Tom was published in the *Prospect* magazine, in January 2004.

Tom left the Battersea Arts Centre to become Associate Director at the National Theatre in February 2026. He is the brother of **Chris Morris OS 80**, the television satirist currently at Bristol Old Vic.

Several of his OS 82 playroom used the occasion to gather in his support. Seen here anticlockwise: **Trevor Fernandes**, *Jonathan Hall*, **Tom Morris**, **Alex Veys**, **Justin O'Brien**, **Richard Williams**, **Chris Dennis**, **Chris Riley** (in suit), and **Chris Bernard**.



**Kim Bridgeman OS 20** writes to update us on her journey since leaving Stonyhurst:

My time at Stonyhurst was truly seminal in shaping how I see the world. It was where a quiet but persistent personal philosophy was refined: curiosity, learning by immersion and learning to think critically. I still vividly remember my Stonyhurst open day, being told to always “question

the question”. That simple phrase chimed instantly with my inner dialogue and has stayed with me ever since. It captured something distinctly Stonyhurst, not just learning what to think, but learning how to think.

Growing up in the picturesque valleys of Lancashire, surrounded by temperate rainforests and vast moorlands, I had always found peace and inspiration in nature, particularly in remote wilderness areas. I spent much of my childhood exploring local landscapes on foot, inquisitive about the natural world. Stonyhurst nurtured this instinct and gave it direction, encouraging both reflection and engagement with the wider world.

After leaving Stonyhurst, I embarked on a 15-month trip around the world, where I was fortunate enough to experience many different cultures and ways of life. I trekked through the Caucasus Mountains, swam in the Dead Sea and spent time with local communities in remote corners of Indonesia. I traced the footsteps of Alfred Russel Wallace, the 19th-century explorer and naturalist often called the father of biogeography, and became deeply inspired by his approach to learning through immersion.



Upon returning from my travels, I went on to read Geography at Hatfield College, Durham University, with a final-year research project on the nexus between sustainability, conservation and migration in Lombok, Indonesia. Alongside my studies, I led a social enterprise focused on waste-to-energy conversion in Nairobi, Kenya, which went on to receive both national and international recognition and funding.

I have tried to embody the motto *Quant Je Puis* – “as much as I can” – in every element of my life. That has meant continuing to train in martial arts, engaging in voluntary work and trying to make a

positive impact within whatever community I find myself in, whether at home or abroad. Since graduating, I have joined the Royal Geographical Society, which felt like a natural continuation of my academic endeavours.

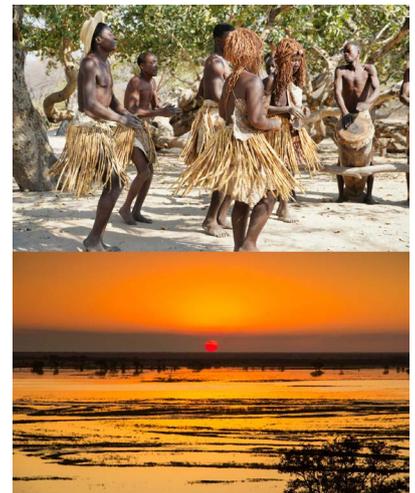
Today, I work for an impact travel company, **Journeys With Purpose**, where we curate transformative experiences in wild nature. My team facilitates access to some of the world’s most ambitious conservation projects and specialises in family, purpose-led travel. Each journey includes a direct contribution to the people and projects involved, supporting conservation and community initiatives on the ground. At its heart, my work is about education and storytelling – but not in the conventional sense.



Classrooms teach us facts. The world teaches us context. This kind of learning through lived experience is slow, sensory and relational. It happens by sitting with conservationists protecting endangered habitats, from the foothills of the Himalayas to the marine ecosystems of Palau. By walking ancient trade routes with local guides. By sharing meals with families whose daily realities are shaped by different histories, climates and values.

When we treat the world as a classroom, the curriculum becomes endlessly rich. It does not deliver answers so much as reshape the questions. And perhaps that is the true power of travel as education: it does not seek to impress, but to awaken. To remind us that learning is not confined to certain stages of life or certain places but is a lifelong relationship with the world around us – one I first began to understand at Stonyhurst.

For me, the greatest privilege now is helping others to experience this same kind of learning through lived experience. If any fellow members of the Stonyhurst community are curious about embarking on a purpose-led journey of their own, I would be delighted to connect and explore what that might look like.



# CONGRATULATIONS

Please send your contributions to the Editor: [j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:j.macfarlane@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

## BIRTHS



**Dr Ben Bickford OS 07** is delighted to share that his son, Henry William Stanley Bickford, was born safely on 4th November 2025, and both his wife Ruth and Henry are doing very well. He tells us that it has been a joyful and humbling start to this new chapter. Henry will be baptised at St Mary's Harvington Hall by Monsignor John Armitage (Guild of Our Lady of Ransom and Order of Malta) in early 2026.



**Julian Dineen OS 06** and his wife Clementine are pleased to announce the birth of their twins Laurence John and Margot Beatrix on 10th January 2025. They were christened in St Peter's Church, Winchester on 23rd November. Congratulations from your Stonyhurst family!



Congratulations to **Olivia Dawson OS 15** and her partner, Ryan, on the birth of their 'beautiful baby girl' Gracie Harriet O'Hara who was born on 10th January weighing 7lbs10oz. We are absolutely besotted and are so in love with her! She's simply perfect!

## MARRIAGES



Congratulations to **Asmita Chitnis OS 12** who married Arthur Wakeley at St Peter's Church Stonyhurst on Friday 12th December surrounded by friends and family.

23 OS attended the occasion including; **Anthony Chitnis OS 83**, **Daisy Chitnis OS 14**, **Arthur Chitnis OS 16**, **Paul Chitnis OS 79**, **Susannah Chitnis OS 21**, **Joseph Chitnis OS 22**, **Jay Chitnis OS 80**, **Jay Chitnis (jnr) OS 15**, **India Chitnis OS 06**, **Tara Notter (née Chitnis) OS 08**, **Jude Crawford OS 21**, **Priya Crawford OS 23**, **William Dear OS 07**, **Joe Notter OS 05**, **Anand Chitnis OS 81**, **Christopher Graffius OS 77**, **Catriona Graffius OS 11**, **Alison MacDonald OS 12**, **Alice Grout-Smith OS 12**, **Alice Eastwood SMH 07**, **Julie Macfarlane OS 78** who was the Authorised Person for the legal side of the ceremony and **Fr Matthew Power SJ OS 79** who was the Celebrant for the Nuptial Mass. The celebrations continued within the College into the wee small hours.

*Editor's note: It is with great sadness that we report that **Chris Graffius OS 77**, cousin to the bride, has recently died. RIP Christopher.*



**George Riley OS 08** writes to inform us of his marriage to Leigh Martin on 11th April 2025 at Middleton Lodge in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

OS attendees were **Gabriel Wenner OS 08** (and my best man!), **Sam Anderton OS 08**, and **Austin Culley OS 08**.



**Dr Benjamin Bickford**, who should have been **OS 10** but who, in his own words, left in 2007, as an early casualty of the 2008 financial crisis when his father's business was hit particularly hard, went on to study medicine and now works at the intersection of health, technology, and governance.

He is delighted to share that he has married Ruth Mary Frances Stanley (St Mary's, Ascot) whom he met on the 2024 Order of Malta pilgrimage to Lourdes under Msgr. John Armitage. Fr Armitage celebrated their marriage for them in November 2024 at St Mary's, Harvington Hall. Congratulations to Ben and Ruth!



Congratulations to **Kate Barr OS 04** who was married to Graham Forshaw at a private ceremony at Preston Registry Office on 29th November 2025 followed by a party held at Longridge House on 5th December 2025. The other OS in attendance was Kate's father **John Barr OS 74**.



**Josh Allan OS 15** informs us of his marriage to Alix Long on 6th Sep 2025. They were married at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 41 Brook Garden, London.

In attendance were also **Emily Erel, James Alton, Messalina Morley, Joey Callinicos** and **Edward Johnson**, all **OS 15**, and **Ben Allan**, brother to the groom and best man, **OS 06**.

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## OTHER CONGRATULATIONS

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**Michael OS 67** and Frances-Anne King celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 18th October 2025.

Frances-Anne's brothers Andrew & Edward Sutherland **OS 66** and **67** had happily introduced their sister to Michael in 1970 and they were married in St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, EC2 on 18th October 1975.

Frances-Anne originally trained as a nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital but after bringing up three boys and achieving a top degree in English & Creative Writing, she moved on to be a published poet. Michael was chairman of Stone King solicitors, which was founded in Bath in 1785, and in 1990 moved the firm to London and elsewhere to pursue Charity & Education law & practice; he was also a founding member of, and later chaired, the Charity Law Association.

A family party was held in Somerset on 11th October and included Michael's two brothers, **Nick SJ** and **Richard OS 65** and **72** as well as their late sister Julia's husband, Lou (father to **James, Michael** and **William OS 87, 89** and **92**). Nick had earlier celebrated Mass for the extended family at St Mary's, Bath.

For the anniversary itself Michael and Frances-Anne were taken to Paris by their three sons, Edward, Dominic and Piers.





AMDG.

I, **Julie Macfarlane OS 78**, was privileged to attend the 2025 Jesuit Jubilee in New Orleans on 15th November with my sister, Anne. The occasion was significant in that my nephew, **Fr J. Patrick Hough SJ OS 92**, and Anne's son, was to profess his Final, Solemn Vows to the Jesuit USA Central and Southern Province. **Fr Joe Hill SJ OS 02** was also in attendance.

Stonyhurst has not, in recent years, seen many vocations to the Jesuits from its alumni and this occasion could not go by unremarked or uncelebrated by the Association.

The solemn and final vows mark a commitment to the vow taker by the Society of Jesus, opening doors within the Order that would otherwise remain closed to the priest. It does not ordinarily occur until at least 15 years have elapsed from their first vows, following their 'tertianship' and may be perceived as a sort of 'coming of age' event within the Jesuit family. I thought that it may interest our readers to learn what those vows are.

The Profession of Final vows, seen below, are made in front of the Blessed Sacrament following the Consecration: *'I, Nomen Nescio make my profession, and I promise to Almighty God, in the presence of the Virgin mother, the whole heavenly court, and all those here present, and to you, Reverend Father, representing the Superior General of the Society of Jesus and his successors and holding the place of God, perpetual poverty, chastity and obedience; and in conformity with it, special care for the instruction of children, according to the manner of living contained in the apostolic letters of the Society of Jesus and its Constitutions.*

*I further promise a special obedience to the Sovereign Pontiff in regard to the missions according to the same apostolic letters and Constitutions.'*

Additional vows were made in private, in the presence of the ordained ministers present at the ceremony, with great joy and celebration.

Congratulations to Fr Patrick, who, having completed this great milestone, returned to Grand Coteau to continue his current work in directing this Retreat Centre and in planning to establish a centre dedicated to young people within the campus. Fr Patrick is seen in the photo professing his Final Vows in front of the Blessed Sacrament, with his mother and aunt (me) and his fellow Jesuit **Fr Joe Hill OS 02**, who still has a few years to wait before he is invited to profess his own Final Vows, at Mass the next day. LDS



◀ Congratulations to **Cristina Garlington-Dihl OS 04** who graduated from IAE Paris Sorbonne Business School in May 2025. She is seen here at the graduation ceremony with her husband Christophe Dihl, her daughter Celeste and her father, **Paul Garlington**, who was a former teacher and Head of History at SMH for many years.

Congratulations to **Steve Hughes OS 10** who reports on his recent appointment working with Citizens Advice:

I am delighted to share that I have recently been appointed as the new Executive Director of Client and Member Services at Citizens Advice, the national charity that supports over 2.6 million people each year with free, confidential advice and works in partnership with more than 230 local Citizens Advice organisations across England, Wales and the Channel Islands.



In this role I will lead the charity's largest directorate, bringing together teams delivering services, supporting local offices, and developing the digital and data platforms that underpin advice delivery. It's a role rooted in social justice, collaboration, and innovation, all values I first began to develop at Stonyhurst, where a strong sense of service and commitment to others has always been central to our education.

The Jesuit principle of men and women for others has remained a guiding thread throughout my career in local government, housing, and the charity sector. I'm excited to now bring that spirit to Citizens Advice, helping ensure that people facing the toughest of circumstances can get the help they need, and that our network of local charities continues to thrive.

# FROM THE HEADMASTER

JOHN BROWNE



AMDG

## Headmaster's Reflections 2016-2026

It was rather surreal for Marie and I to watch the fireworks from Sydney Harbour on the television this year mindful that next year we will be there! The New Year has also been a time for me to reflect on ten enormously rewarding years at Stonyhurst.

My vision from the start was to position Stonyhurst as a Jesuit mothership for Jesuit education and spirituality. My aims were to develop the schools to be more Ignatian, more global and outward looking, more ambitious, more of a boarding school (including inviting the day pupils to share that experience) and more integrated with its extraordinary history and material culture. To be a fully endowed school is the latest and important addition to that list. My intention has been to integrate everything into a modern and compelling experience for our young people and to further foster that sense of deep belonging to a global 'family like no other'.

## Stonyhurst as a Roman Catholic and Jesuit School

We proudly promote our Catholic and Ignatian identity by living out the ideals of AMDG, *Quant Je Puis* and 'men and women for others'. Association members will know the Jesuit Profile of virtues and our young people really do try to live out these virtues every day. I have greatly enjoyed the formal liturgies such as Champion Day and Sodality (and we do these really well) as well as the more informal opportunities for prayer and reflection (such as *Fess Up Saturdays* during Lent) and even firing the cannons at the Fronts for Cannonball Day. Fr Tim's cameo appearances in every drama production further deepens our Jesuit identity!

## Stonyhurst as a Global School

This aim has been to ensure we are a 'big picture' school for all of our young people as well as developing links internationally with other Jesuit institutions. Every trip abroad now



includes a visit to a Jesuit school or university and often they come back and visit Stonyhurst. As I write we have twenty-eight pupils with their staff visiting for two weeks from the Jesuit school in Montevideo in Uruguay which was founded by an OS!

The founding of Stonyhurst International School in Penang, Malaysia has been a special project. A number of Association members have visited and all feedback that it 'feels' like Stonyhurst in terms of the Ignatian charism and warmth of relationships despite being brand new, large (nearly 900 pupils now) and in a tropical climate. Stonyhurst is in fact the only Jesuit school in the world to have founded another school. The Jesuit Curia in Rome had to write a new policy for us.



## Stonyhurst as an Academic School

The Stonyhurst Learner Profile has been developed across both schools to ensure all of our children and young people develop an Ignatian pedagogy, helping them to become curious learners for life. International Baccalaureate now accounts for nearly 50% of Higher Line. We were thrilled with the A Level results this year at 80% A\*-B which put us 155th in the UK league tables. This term we

opened a new Art and Design facility thanks to the generosity of benefactors.

## Stonyhurst as a Boarding School

Stonyhurst is unusual in that we invite our day pupils to experience everything the boarders do except sleep here! Of course, as day pupils become older they do often become boarders, and this further builds the family feel of the community.

## Stonyhurst as a fully Endowed School

The creation of *Stonyhurst Foundation* as an independent charity was an important moment for Stonyhurst. The *Times Parent Power* league table in November 2025 placed Stonyhurst in the top 10 in the UK for bursary provision. It is essential for a Jesuit school to be as accessible to as many young people as possible, and I am deeply grateful to those who support the Foundation so generously.

However, a fully Endowed school has a different aim – this is to reduce the costs for *everyone*. In the post-VAT world this is vital work. John Coggin will join us as Director of Fundraising soon from the University of Nottingham. John, an American, is also on the Alumni Board of Harvard so will bring us deep experience of fundraising.

I should like to thank Association members for their friendship either here at Stonyhurst reunions or at Stonyhurst receptions across the world. I have covered over 100,00 miles in ten years! I have greatly enjoyed the Easter Retreats and a particular highlight for us was the 2018 Association Dinner in the *Dail* in Dublin where Marie's great-grandfather had been a TD. It has been a joy to see the Farm Street Carol Service quickly become a tradition.

On my arrival at Stonyhurst in 2016, I was given some advice from a governor – 'professionalise what you need to and keep the magic.' I have returned to this wise touchstone many times whilst leading this extraordinarily complex and wonderful institution.

I have known William Doherty as a fellow Jesuit Head for a few years now and he will bring great experience and wisdom. I know you will make him very welcome. Thank you for being part of a 'family like no other' and if you are in Sydney do come and visit. St Aloysius' College is opposite the Opera House so you can't miss it.

Best wishes  
John Browne  
LDS



The farewell event for John Browne was marked by the celebration of Mass for the St Omer's Martyrs in St Peter's church. The motet, *Justorum Animae* written by Paul Mealor LVO, had its world premiere at the Offertory and was specially commissioned to mark the conclusion of John's decade-long tenure.

The newly completed Processional Cross, handmade by Julian Hart of the Guild of Handicraft in the Arts and Craft style, and purchased through the kind donations of many OS, parents, benefactors and friends of Stonyhurst, was blessed by the Most Reverend George Stack, Archbishop Emeritus of Cardiff, during the high Mass. The Cross, seen here outside the church and redacted to protect the identity of the pupil carrying it, contains relics of two Welsh Martyrs executed in 1679 – St. Philip Evans SJ, a former pupil of St Omer's College, and his companion, St. John Lloyd, a secular priest.



Introducing **William Doherty** who assumes the responsibility of leading Stonyhurst in its next chapter from 1st May.

AMDG. It is with deep humility and a profound sense of both gratitude and responsibility that I write to you for the first time as the incoming Head of your remarkable school. In accepting this position of leadership, I recognise the inherent custodianship entailed, shared in no small way with you and many others in

the Stonyhurst Family. The role, shaped by centuries of scholarship, faith, service and aspirational spirit, is an extraordinary honour and one that I approach with no small measure of awe.

It is apparent to me that Stonyhurst is not merely a school; it is a living heritage. I have a sense of the generations of alumni who have carried its spirit into every corner of the world – into public office, the Church and works of charity, the sciences, arts and business, and to the quiet, everyday places where character reveals itself and is demanded for the preservation of good. To join this lineage of leadership and of organisational integrity is to recognise that whatever good we hope to achieve in the years ahead will be built upon foundations laid long before my time. I am acutely aware that I stand on the shoulders of giants: dedicated educators, visionary leaders, of hope-filled parents and of pupils – a collective whose faith, courage, intellectual and moral capacity and generosity have shaped the identity and life of this remarkable institution. In no small way, such contribution has clearly been gifted to the College by Mr John Browne.

It is a somewhat unique moment that sees John move into headship in Australia at St Aloysius' College, the leading academic Catholic school in the country, and an Australian be given such an opportunity in not only our mother country but in something of the mothership of Jesuit education. It makes a strong statement about the global calibre and perspective of Jesuit schools and the Ignatian learning paradigm that influences some 2 million people around our world each and every day.

I had the great pleasure of visiting Stonyhurst for the first time in mid-2023 while visiting the UK to see my Xavier College pupils on their

cricket tour and engage with some of the numerous Old Xaverians whose careers have taken them to the British Isles, into continental Europe and beyond. While it certainly planted a seed in my mind for future possibilities, I was struck by the generosity and passion of John who hosted my visit and spoke with such knowledge and affection about the school. I was equally entranced by the Museum, Archives and exhibitions and amazed by the extent of the buildings and the estate. What a privilege we inherit and a responsibility to ensure its care and vitality for generations to come.

As I begin this journey, I am filled with genuine enthusiasm and optimism. The challenges faced today by both our schools and our pupils are real, but so too are the opportunities. Education is a life-giving journey that opens minds, horizons and possibilities to God's children, the inheritors of his will and Earth.

No matter how we have seized upon our own education, however the cards have fallen, I am sure we are united in our collective desires for the best opportunities and outcomes for our next generation. Our Ignatian conviction to be "men and women for others" asks that we develop this understanding and a life-affirming sense of our faith within our youth. We attend passionately to their care and holistic formation – our *cura personalis* commitment to the growth and care of the entire person – as we encourage their flourishing under the Stonyhurst banner *to be as much as they can*.

As an educator and as a leader, my role is simple – to bring this to the fore. When we do this in communion and cohesion with others, and where we draw strength from both our tradition as well as a spirit of innovation, wonderful outcomes emerge and Stonyhurst and its pupils flourish.

I look forward to this, as I do to meeting many of you in the months and years ahead – to hear your stories and to learn from your experiences and perspectives. Your connection to Stonyhurst is part of its heartbeat, and your continued engagement sustains the school and its ability to thrive. Together, I welcome the opportunity to build upon the rich legacy entrusted to us, and enlivened by John's contribution as Headmaster, as we walk in the footsteps of St Ignatius, of his Companions and their enduring mission.

I have already valued the welcome that has been extended to me and my wife Terena, albeit from afar. I cannot wait to be resident in the Ribble Valley soon and to immerse myself in the Stonyhurst Family – a family like no other I am fondly told! Please keep me in your prayers, as I will keep you in mine. LDS

## IN MEMORIAM

News of the deaths of the following have been received since the Autumn 2025 edition of the newsletter.

Damian Gerard Perry	OS 1978 - 1982	Peter Eugene May	OS 1949 - 1957
Melvin Christopher Graffius	OS 1972 - 1977	Anthony Dachs	Former Staff
Michael Russell Boyle	OS 1961 - 1967	Philip Armstrong	OS 1958 - 1967
James Chanter OS	OS 2000 - 2005	Brendan Preston Witter	OS 1953 - 1956
Nicholas Richard Harrison	OS 1964 - 1969	Charles James Edgar Wynne-Williams	OS 1948 - 1958
Fr Simon Bishop SJ	OS 1975 - 1985	Martin Ramon Savile De Bertando	OS 1947 - 1956
Martin Dewar Prendergast	OS 1958 - 1967	David Hallam	Former Staff
David Fear Hill	OS 1938 - 1946	Jeremy Taylor	Former Parent

May they rest in peace.

## ROYAL NAVY CHAPLAIN FR SAM BURKE OS 04



AMDG. Doomscrolling yourself into a funk? It's all too easy to trip into modern pitfalls, which litter the digital jungle in which we now live. Have you ever, for example, been left feeling paralysed by the relentless chaos in our world? Have you ever, I wonder, felt overwhelmed by the horrors and sorrows that haunt our broken world, and which are broadcast endlessly via screens seemingly at every turn? Have you ever felt unable to withstand the torrents of splash stories of scandal; of reportage replete with suffering and bloodshed; of populist punditry and the rest?

Against such a backdrop, it is hardly surprising that so many people suffer from poor mental health. And while we have considerably more agency over what we read, hear and watch than we might realise, it's also true that many apps and platforms have manipulative algorithms that are rigged to keep us hooked. Assailed by constant negativity, how might anyone avoid a counsel of despair?

I've been asked if I'd offer some positive suggestions in response to this pervasive challenge. And I hesitated in accepting the invitation because I write not as an expert in any sense but as a fellow traveller. In my previous life, I worked in and around current affairs, and I well-remember being utterly enthralled by the news cycle. The great draw of being in the know almost tormented me. And, while the lure remains, it's much reduced thanks to the injection of some hard-won discipline.

So, I overcame my hesitation and agreed because I "get it". What's more, this is a subject about which I've been asked a great deal by many students and cadets whom I've had the privilege to serve as chaplain. Here, then, are a few thoughts.

First, be intentional in averting negativity. It seems to me that if we wanted to, we could be justifiably angry and sad every single day. Outrageous things take place all the time: there's simply no shortage of ammunition out there and, thanks to the internet, access to it is easy enough. But as a caution against such an approach, there's a helpful

verse in a poem by Jack Gilbert. He wrote: **"To make injustice the only measure of our attention is to praise the Devil."**

Gilbert's poetic claim rests on the premise that our attention is a decision, whether we realise it or not. In our screen-filled stupor, isn't it all too easy not to assume this important responsibility and remain a passive agent? Notice that Gilbert does not say avoid all injustice, only do not focus upon it exclusively. Recognise the limits of your capacity. Strive for balance.

This brings us to the second point: seek out the good. St. Paul wrote "whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." This was wise advice to the Philippians, and, it seems to me, reads as even more insightful today. Actually, I was recently sent a greetings card which carried an echo of this Pauline counsel. It read: **"Focus on the good and the good will come into focus"**. I'm not sure whether it was referring to motivations or news or what-have-you, but it struck me as the other side of the coin to what Gilbert was talking about. There are plenty of uplifting stories of human kindness, of courage and beauty. But it requires an active effort on our part to actively seek out stories, images and sounds that build up and encourage, that enchant and inspire, that nurture and restore. They say that bad news sells more papers. Following that logic, we ought to assume that we'll be fed more negative news than positive. We must therefore take control of what news we "consume", by what means, and for how long we do so. A merely passive approach will not suffice.

**Finally, do not be afraid to switch machines off. Delete apps. You can do it for an hour, for a day, or even a week!**

A regular digital detox is all the rage these days, in fact. If or when you return to a particular source, you might be more discerning in your need and use of it. You may experience the liberating realisation that the world carries on just the same. You may even grow in a sense of peace away from the noise of it all. Regular fasting from news cultivates within a healthy of detachment from fleeting things in order to see what really matters. And What – Who! – might you discover there? LDS



# JOHN BOWEN OS 29

The Spring 2025 edition of the Association newsletter made much of OS who had dug deep and found courage over adversity. We are fortunate that this topic has prompted his son, Peter Bowen, to submit a very moving letter from his father, John Bowen **OS 29**, who was taken as a Prisoner of War in Singapore during the second world war:

*Mukden Camp.*

*25 August 1945.*

I am 2nd Lt. John Bowen, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, a Japanese POW for four years. This letter is for wife, Mary, son Peter and daughter, baby Jane, telling the story of my captivity at the hands of the Japanese and sadistic North Korean guards. I am lucky to be alive! I wrote several letters home, I have no idea if any got through. I have only one letter from you, Mary, sent over two years ago. There is no news of what is happening in England. This is my story of my treatment at the hands of my Japanese captors, albeit a summary.

Aged 28, I left Liverpool on the 'Warwick Castle' in October 1941, part of a military convoy. Over time, we changed ships and called at ports in several countries, eventually docking in Singapore after being bombed and hit twice on the run into port. I was among 70,000 other troops based in Singapore, which was defended by guns pointing seaward. Early in February, Japanese ground forces attacked Singapore by motorcycle and bike. Allied forces surrendered on February 15th, 1942.

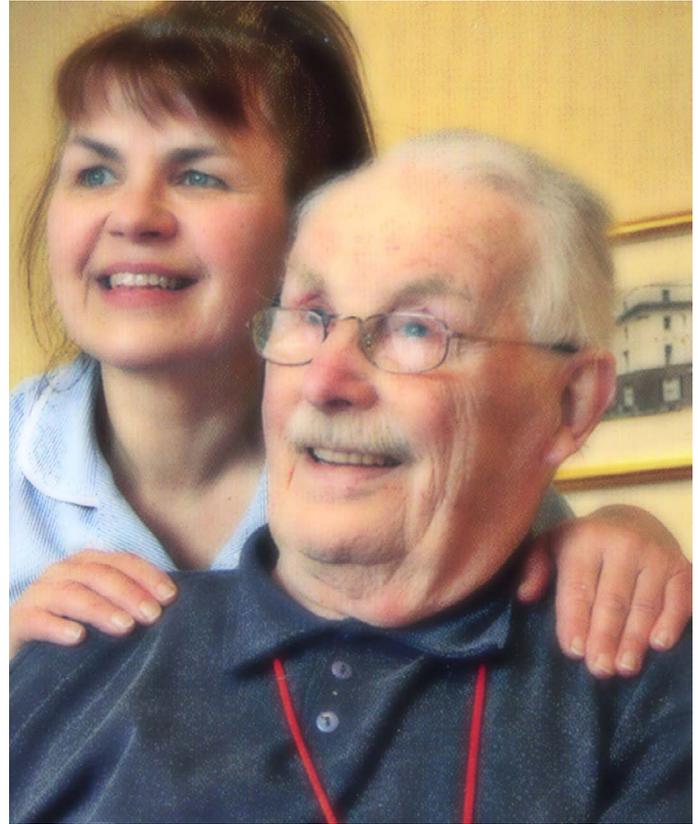
The Japanese had only a small advance party and were astonished by the numbers laying down arms and thought them cowards. I had a lucky escape when suddenly coming face to face with three Japs, one aiming a gun at my head. Fortunately, the bullet flew off the brim of my tin helmet, the only incident in some 12 days of fighting prior to surrender.

Ironically, allied officers were responsible for discipline and managing the port. This soon ended. I worked in the Singapore docks for six months and was then sent off to Thailand with thousands of others to build the notorious Burma-Siam Railway, where I lost many of my soldiers and friends.

Malnutrition, beriberi and cholera claimed many lives, as exhausted, starving prisoners worked 16 hours a day cutting their way through dense jungle with basic tools, whilst bullied, beaten and harassed by our cruel North Korean guards. Some of my younger men could see no end to the life sapping conditions but I, and the older soldiers, were stoical: believing that at some stage the war would come to an end.

The daily ration for prisoners was just three bowls of dry rice and a watery soup. We were all weak and starving. Anything that moved in the jungle went into the pot: dogs, cats, and snakes. As a practicing Catholic with no clerics around, I had the job of padre giving the last rites to prisoners and supervising cremation. Good men died through lack of medicines, food, and rest. I had to watch helplessly during the monsoon weather as men collapsed and died, exhausted after working for 24 hours a day, with only two rests for meals. There were only make-shift camps. At night sleep was impossible because we were overrun by fleas and rats.

I'm told 60,000 prisoners worked on the "Death Railway", which was 200 miles long. They laid 30,000 sleepers, one for every prisoner who died, half of the workforce. Worst memory for me was losing a man for every day of the month in March. Survival for me was all important for family: a baby daughter I had barely seen, now four years old. I have little left. Gone are my cigarette case, pictures, wallet, and fountain pen. I still have a Midland Bank cheque book; two cheques signed for food and medicine for other prisoners. I have lived whilst captive wearing just one pair of shorts and two shirts.



After the railway, I decided to volunteer to go to Japan in May 1944 to learn more about the country and what motivated the people. I dodged death a second time during the long sea trip. All prisoners were batted down in the hold in the searing heat in vessels, barely seaworthy, little more than cargo barges. The ragged flotilla was a target. I am lucky as ours was one of the few survivors: four ships were torpedoed, sunk by American submarines, the commanders not realising they were killing prisoners. Many were Americans.

At the end of June, we were in Japan at a camp called Fukuoka. It was the worst of 20 I experienced. The Japanese were brutal and intolerant. Men died from starvation and hard work in coal and zinc mines; some were deliberately killed. I left in April after 10 months of real misery. I don't know how I got through it alive!

I left Japan the same month and finished up here in Mukden, Manchuria. To start with I had little food: the usual starvation diet. Mukden is a big camp with 1,760 men, 280 are British. I sleep on the floor with 50 other officers. Some of the generals are leaving today and I hope to be away in time for Xmas.

The idea of being home again seems unbelievable. I long to get away from crowds of people and look forward to coming home to you, the family, and peace and quiet.

All my love to you all.

John."

*Footnote: John Bowen OS always thought his schooling and life guiding principles learnt there helped him through his years as a POW. Asked on arrival at Southampton, how he survived his time in captivity, John replied, drily, "After four years with the Jesuits you can survive anything."*

*John Bowen gave evidence after the war for one of his captors, who would otherwise been shot. He lived in Leamington; worked in Warwick for Turiff Construction, was Grand President of the Catenians; and drove a Japanese car! He died in September 2006.*

# THE STONYHURST COLLEGE 1930 PRODUCTION OF JOURNEY'S END



The *Downside Review* has published an article, written by **Dr Benjamin Halligan OS 90**, on the 1930 Stonyhurst College theatrical production of *Journey's End*, staged in the then newly refurbished Academy Room.

The author places the production in the context of the ways in which schools and institutions in the 1930s began to think through, and memorialise, the experiences and losses of the Great War. But the production is also read in the traditions of Jesuit and Stonyhurst uses of theatre, and as anticipating the liturgical renewals of Vatican II.

The production was directed by a Jesuit OS, **Fr Frederick Plant OS 27**, who had taught at the College for a number of years after having been a Chaplain in the Great War – but who left the Jesuits and Stonyhurst shortly after the production.

“I couldn't locate any information on what happened to Fr Plant after Stonyhurst: the Jesuit archive document ended at that point,” Ben said. “But, some months after publication, on presenting a paper on the subject at the Catholic Records Society annual conference prompted one attendee, Lawrence Gregory, Senior Archivist with the National Institute for Newman Studies in Pittsburgh, to check back on research he had conducted into former Jesuits with Fr Paul Lannon while based in the Salford diocese. Plant was one of Lawrence's subjects, and so the story was given an ending.

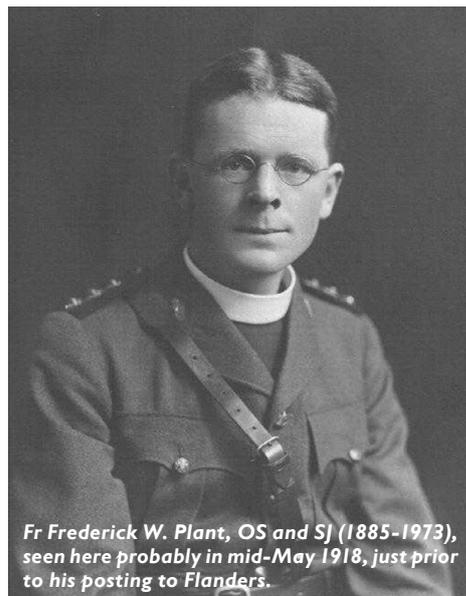
Plant had resigned completely from the priesthood after a few post-Stonyhurst years as a secular priest and, in 1937, married Evelyn Margaret Malia in Sheffield. They emigrated to Victoria, British Columbia, and had two sons – Charles and John. Evelyn died in 1956, at just 41, but Frederick lived on to the age of 88, passing away in 1973, by which time he was living in Nice in France. Charles and John continued to live in Canada.

Lawrence also located a photograph of Frederick – very probably taken in the few weeks between his ordination and his being sent into some of most desperate circumstances of the final months of the Second World War.”

The article can be accessed (for free) via:

[journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00125806251322101](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00125806251322101)

or by looking online for: “Shrovetide Memorial: The Stonyhurst College 1930 Production of *Journey's End*”.



*Fr Frederick W. Plant, OS and SJ (1885-1973), seen here probably in mid-May 1918, just prior to his posting to Flanders.*



*The cast of the 1930 production of “Journey's End” – photograph by Fr Plant, which first appeared in the Stonyhurst Magazine.*

# JESSE JACKSON: REST IN POWER WITHIN THE RIVER OF STRUGGLE

BY TSHEPO KOKA OS

**Roger Briggs OS 54**, currently residing in South Africa, has submitted an article published in by the South African *Sunday Times* and written by **Tshepo Koka OS**, which is particularly topical.

Jesse Jackson was known for his thunderous oratory, but the firebrand minister played a quieter role in anchoring my identity in a time of exile and youthful awakening

The news of Rev Jesse Jackson's death arrives with a weight that is both public and profoundly personal. To the world, he will go down in history as a towering figure in the global struggle for freedom, a relentless advocate for civil rights, and a moral voice who refused to be silenced. To South Africa, he will be remembered as a steadfast ally during the darkest years of apartheid, a leader who spoke our country's name in the corridors of power when our own voices were forcibly muted.

To me, he was something more intimate still: a mentor, a family friend, and a guiding presence at a moment when my life stood at a critical crossroads.

Exile is not merely the condition of being displaced from one's homeland; it is also a slow erosion of certainty, an invisible unmooring of identity. One adapts to new cultures, accents and systems of meaning, and learns to succeed within them. Yet in that process something essential can begin to fade.

I came of age academically within the venerable walls of Stonyhurst College, a prestigious Jesuit institution in England that offered intellectual rigour, tradition, and a clear pathway to the elite British universities. As I completed my school education, the next step seemed self-evident: Oxford or Cambridge.

However, my late father, Drake Koka, perceived something beneath the surface of this apparent success. He feared that in mastering the European intellectual traditions I was slowly drifting from the grounding of my blackness and from the historical consciousness that had shaped our people's resistance. I was a young South African in exile, excelling academically yet increasingly distant from the spiritual and political inheritance that defined who I was.

It was out of this concern that my father reached out to the Rev Jesse Jackson.

**"Never let anyone make you choose between being African and being global."**  
– Jesse Jackson

Jesse immediately understood what was at stake. He did not frame the issue as a rejection of excellence or a detour from ambition. Instead, he spoke of grounding, anchoring



*Rev Jesse Jackson speaks to demonstrators who marched through downtown Minneapolis demanding justice for George Floyd and Daunte Wright in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US, on April 19th, 2021. File photo. (REUTERS/Octavio Jones)*

and recentring a young man before sending him further into the world.

It was Jesse who proposed, through Ida Wood of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, that I spend time at his alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where his sons, Jesse and Jonathan, were studying. The intention was not to replace my academic aspirations but rather to shape the person who would pursue them.

The decision to attend North Carolina A&T proved transformative. The institution was so much more than a university – it was a living testament to black excellence rooted in self-definition rather than imitation. Here were students who spoke with confidence born, not of inherited privilege, but of collective struggle and purpose. I encountered a tradition of scholarship that did not require the erasure of identity and a culture of excellence that celebrated blackness, rather than treating it as an obstacle to overcome.

At the centre of this world stood Jesse Jackson. In public, he was known for his thunderous oratory and commanding presence. In private, he was defined by warmth, attentiveness and an extraordinary generosity of spirit. The Jackson household functioned as a crossroads of the movement. Conversations flowed effortlessly between domestic concerns and global politics, scripture and strategy, as well as laughter and solemn reflection. Jesse listened with the same seriousness to young people as he did to seasoned leaders. He challenged us to think, defend our ideas and, above all, understand why we believed what we did.

Through my friendship with his sons, I found not only companionship but also fraternity.

Together we navigated the complexities of growing into ourselves under the long shadow of history. We explored life and various curiosities as young men on campus. We met our prospective wives and accompanied each other to the altar. Our debates, aspirations and uncertainties unfolded within a home that treated political consciousness as a daily practice rather than an abstract exercise.

Summers enjoyed at Jesse's home in Chicago and time spent at his birth home in South Carolina became for me a parallel education. Thanksgiving gatherings were not merely family occasions – they were assemblies of elders, activists, artists, clergy and students whose lives had been shaped by the long arc of struggle. These were spaces where history was not frozen in textbooks but lived, debated and extended.

Jesse often spoke of what he called the "river of struggle". This is the idea that none of us begins at the source and none of us controls the final destination. We merely inherit currents shaped by those before us, and we bear responsibility for shaping those that follow.

In one quiet conversation about South Africa, exile and the peculiar loneliness of fighting for a country one cannot physically touch, Jesse said to me, "Never let anyone make you choose between being African and being global. You are both. You must be both." That sentence has remained with me ever since.

Perhaps the most enduring lesson he imparted was simple yet demanding: whatever you become, become it in service. Not in service to recognition or comfort, but to humanity.

Through Jesse, I came to understand that

the politics of black consciousness in South Africa and the traditions of black liberation in the US are not separate conversations but simply different dialects of the same language. The insistence on psychological liberation articulated by Steve Biko found resonance in Malcolm X's call for mental decolonisation. The vision of shared humanity embedded in the Freedom Charter echoed in Martin Luther King Jr's conception of the beloved community. Jesse did not present these traditions as competing ideologies but showed them as a continuum.

It is also important to note that I was not the only South African finding political and personal grounding within Jesse's orbit during those years. Alongside me was Kgosi Mathews, who served as Jesse's special assistant for a number of years. Kgosi came from a proud ANC lineage. His grandfather, Z K Matthews, was a renowned academic and one of the intellectual architects of the liberation struggle, deeply rooted in the traditions of the ANC. I, by contrast, was a child of the Black Consciousness Movement. Yet within the Jesse Jackson camp these histories did not collide, but rather converged.

Our debates were rigorous but never hostile. We challenged one another, sharpened one another, and discovered how our respective traditions were less rivals than complementary

currents of the same river. Under Jesse's guidance, we learned that political maturity required both conviction and generosity: the ability to hold true to one's lineage with pride while remaining open to synthesis. We learned that style, presentation and comportment were not superficial, but rather a crucial part of political communication. How we dressed, spoke and carried ourselves in public spaces was important. Jesse taught us that leadership is read long before it is heard.

When he invited me to join him on his campaign trail, I witnessed first-hand the toll and nobility of public service. While I saw exhaustion, sacrifice and disappointment, I also saw an unshakeable faith in ordinary people. Whether speaking in churches, union halls or community centres, Jesse refused to dilute his moral message. He believed leadership meant calling people to their highest selves, even when doing so was politically costly.

Perhaps the most enduring lesson he imparted was simple yet demanding: whatever you become, become it in service. Not in service to recognition or comfort, but to humanity.

Looking back, I now understand that my father's intervention was an act of love rooted in foresight. He did not fear education, but rather amnesia. He feared I would forget who I was, where I came from, and what obligations

accompany privilege. Jesse ensured I did not forget.

On behalf of my late father and my mother, Maletlhare, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to Jacqueline Jackson; to Santita, Jesse, Jonathan, Jacqui, Yusef, Jacqui Lavinia and Ashley; and to the entire Jackson family. Please know that you remain in our prayers and thoughts during this time of profound loss.

The world has lost a giant, but I have lost a teacher and the guardian of my becoming. However, I take comfort in knowing that Jesse Jackson's legacy does not reside solely in monuments or archives but also in the countless lives he shaped quietly, patiently and with love. His voice may now be silent, but his lessons speak in how we walk, think and serve.

May his soul rest in power. May his river continue to flow.

*Koka is reported to be a social commentator and researcher in the cultural industries. He lived with Jesses Jackson's family while studying in the US.*

*Editor's note: the Association is not currently in contact with Tshepo Koka and ask if anyone can help the Association make contact with him? Please email [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk)*

## CURATOR'S NEWS

BY DR JAN GRAFFIUS

Thanks to the very generous support of the Stonyhurst Reunion Museum Tours and the Stonyhurst Collections' Friends, Associates and Patrons, the College has recently acquired two significant, historic artefacts: a 17th century panel painting of St Ignatius and a mid-17th century English chalice and paten.

They were purchased at auctions in November 2025 and January 2026 from sales of assets owned by Mount St Mary's College. In 2006, Mount St Mary's was transferred from Jesuit ownership to a separate trust and worked with the Province to maintain a Jesuit identity. The Mount St Mary's Trust went into administration on 30 July 2025 and its assets were sent to auction.

Item 1: The small portrait of Ignatius is painted on an Italian oak panel, and dates from the 1650s. It shows him in Jesuit robes holding open a copy of the Jesuit foundation document, commencing *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam*. The auction house described it as a 'Man in a black robe holding a bible', which isn't exactly accurate! I was directed to the sale by our former Archivist, Joe Reed, to whom I am most grateful. My interest in the painting was caught by a small number plate on the lower right-hand side of the frame, which reads '359'. It is a Stonyhurst Collections number, invariably used on our oil paintings. Further investigation proved that no 359 was indeed a Stonyhurst painting recorded in the 1932 paintings catalogue, although without a provenance. Such paintings were usually acquired by Fr Thomas Glover in the 1830s, or even derived from Liege, Bruges or St Omers. Fr Glover was the English Jesuit Agent in Rome, in charge of the Province's financial affairs. He was also a keen collector



of Italian paintings, sending many to Stonyhurst to cover what he described as the miles of empty walls.

Examining the back of the painting provided further proof of its Stonyhurst origins – a label stating that caution must be used in tightening the mirror plates that held the panel into the frame. It was in the distinctive hand of the Stonyhurst Head of Art in the 1970s, Andrew Henderson, who conserved many of the College's artworks.

How did the painting get to Mount St Mary's? That remains a mystery. It was clearly at the College when Andrew Henderson inscribed his warning label but was not included in the extensive photographic survey of the paintings collection undertaken by the Courtauld in the early 1980s. At some time between these two points, it is presumed that the painting was made over to MSM as a gift, but no paperwork has survived to provide further details of the circumstances.

I identified a source of funding for the acquisition in the budget allocated to the fees for Stonyhurst Reunions, where a modest sum is credited to the Collections to acknowledge the time and effort that goes into providing museum and historic library tours. The painting was duly



secured and will be travelling back to Stonyhurst shortly. A plaque will commemorate the OS Reunions' crucial role in bringing this small piece of Stonyhurst history back home.

Item 2: The chalice, which has been named the Powtrell Chalice, is a deeply significant historical piece – with links not only to Jesuit missionary activity by Edmund Campion and his successors, but also for its role in English Jesuit education from the 17th century onwards. It was secured with funding from the Stonyhurst Collections Friends, Associates and Patrons scheme, which supports the work of the museum, historic libraries and archives.

Mount St Mary's College, in Derbyshire, was founded in 1842 as a Jesuit school; it was located on the site of a historic Jesuit educational mission which dated back to the early 17th century, with links to the Edmund Campion/Robert Persons mission of 1580–81.

In 1620, a clandestine Catholic school was founded by the Vaux family in Stanley Grange near Derby. When this school was discovered and dispersed by the authorities in 1635, it was relocated to nearby Spinkhill Hall, which was already an established house for Jesuits with a well-furnished chapel. The Hall was owned by members of the recusant Pole family, relatives of the martyr Margaret Pole.

The Jesuit mission in the Midlands was established in 1633 by Father Richard Blount; it was known as the College of the Immaculate Conception and consisted of a network of Catholic houses in the region. Holbeck Hall was probably the College's main house up to the time of the Popish Plot in 1678. Soldiers of Charles II raided the Jesuit college in Holbeck on at least two occasions at this time – some furnishings and plate were salvaged by the Jesuits and taken to Spinkhill,



some nine miles away, for safekeeping. After the final raid on Holbeck, Spinkhill Hall became the principal centre for the Jesuits. When the last of the Poles, Ursula, died in 1751, the house was bequeathed to the Society and, in 1842, became the Jesuit school, Mount St Mary's.

An inventory of silver plate at Spinkhill Hall was drawn up by Fr Blundell SJ in 1721 which lists pieces of 16th and 17th century plate, some of which were donated by the Powtrells of Powtrell Hall, who sheltered Edmund Campion on 15th January 1581. The mid-17th century chalice, described below, featured on this inventory and was donated through a substantial gift of altar plate from Mrs Powtrell to the Jesuits in the 1680s, possibly to make up for the losses of the 1678 raid.

The bowl has a slightly flaring rim and the domed circular base is engraved with a Crucifix. The baluster stem is applied with winged putti in the style known as a Petre chalice. The circular paten is engraved with an IHS christogram with a cross above and bleeding heart below and is of the design popularised by the Jesuits in the Low Countries and England in the 17th century.

The Powtrell Chalice was used at the Campion Day Mass last December, 2025, marking its links with Edmund Campion. It is currently on display in the Do Room with other historic English and Irish chalices.

I would like to put on record my deep gratitude to all OS who have attended Reunions over the last two years, and to our generous Friends, Associates and Patrons. Without this collective generosity, these two important pieces of Stonyhurst and Jesuit history would have been lost.

If you would like to know more about the Friends, Patrons and Associates scheme and its many benefits, please check the Museum webpage on the College website:

**Support Us | Stonyhurst Museum & Archives**

Dr Janet Graffius FSA  
Curator of Collections, Historic Libraries and Archives

# UPDATE FROM THE ARCHIVES

## ‘THE OLDEST MUSEUM IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD’

Located at the heart of the modern Stonyhurst College are The Museum; The Historic Libraries and The Historic Buildings.

The Old Chapel Museum was reinstated in October 2017 and is the location of our exhibitions which have recently featured:

- The Shakespeare First Folio and Folio 400 anniversary
- The collections of Charles Waterton OS
- Vestments made by Helena Wintour\*\*
- The life and work of Arthur Conan Doyle OS

The three Historic Libraries – The Arundell; The Bay and The Square – were built in the 1850s and were restored in 2017. Each has its own history and collectively contain over 30,000 books including important first editions.

The College moved into the Elizabethan Stonyhurst Hall in 1794 and parts of the historic building are still in use today including the Chapels; the Great Hall; the Long Room and the Philosophers Common Room.

During your time here it may be that your access to some or all of the above may have been limited. It is now possible for you to visit and have a guided tour of The Museum and Historic Libraries and/or the Historic Buildings.

**Come and visit with friends or family and find out more about our unique collections.**

For more information or to make a booking, please email Alan Osborne:  
[a.osborne@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:a.osborne@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



The photographs above show the Cope made for Henry VII \*\* which was worn by Henry VIII at The Field of the Cloth of Gold and the Caiman captured by Charles Waterton in Guyana.

\*\* These items are the property of The British Jesuit Province.



## Stonyhurst's Irish History

St Patrick's Day- 17th March 2026  
An evening lecture - 7pm start

Stonyhurst's Irish links are numerous, surprising and historically significant. This event provides an exclusive opportunity to view unique early Irish manuscripts, and vestments belonging to St Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, who was martyred in 1681. Many of the Irish Carroll family, who helped frame, and sign, the American Declaration of Independence and founded Georgetown University, were educated at the College. Plays and poems written by the Stonyhurst-educated Irish revolutionaries Thomas Francis Meagher and Joseph Mary Plunkett will also feature. A highlight of the evening is a one-off chance to view three pieces of unique 17th and 18th century Irish silver, generously lent to Stonyhurst by the Poleberry Foundation. These chalices illustrate the complicated story of Catholicism in Ireland. They will be displayed beside rare Irish chalices from Stonyhurst.

£35 per person, including refreshments.  
Pre-booking essential

Stonyhurst College,  
Hurst Green, Lancashire.  
Sat Nav BB7 9PX



For more information and to book online

[www.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

# REPORTS ON EVENTS

## ASSOCIATION CAROL SERVICE, THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2025

Over 200 OS and Association family attended the Association Carol service in St Peter's Church on Thursday 4th December. Traditional carols were sung, interspersed by six readings. Special thanks to **Lucy Hardwick OS 82** and **Jonny Warneken OS 90** who read the Association readings. The congregation were treated to some beautiful singing by the College Schola Cantorum choir who were led by the Director of Music, Andrew Henderson.

A generous £558 was collected for the Association President's Fund which helps OS who are experiencing difficulties or crisis. A reception of mulled wine and Christmas cake followed the service in Theodore House.

*Editor's note: If you are experiencing difficulties and would like to apply for help from the President's Fund: please contact Jo-anne at [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk). Each individual case will be dealt with sympathetically and in complete confidence.*



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOUISE WINCKLEY

Many of you will remember Stephen and Louise Winckley who worked in catering. Stephen joined Stonyhurst as the Assistant Catering Manager in 1983 working alongside Carl Sims and later Barbara Church-Taylor. In 2003, Stephen moved across to SMH where he became the Catering Manager and remained there until he left in 2021. Louise occasionally worked in the College helping with catering events until Stephen joined SMH, where she became his assistant, working at SMH for 17 years until she became too ill to work. Louise sadly died in February 2025.

Stephen and Louise's family are raising money and awareness of the amazing work of the charity Lymphoma Action, in memory of Louise, who sadly lost her fight with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. As a way of us keeping her memory alive and wanting to say a massive thank you to this charity that supported her, their son Matthew has signed up to run the London Marathon on the 26th April, in honour of his mum and to raise money for Lymphoma Action, so they can continue their life-changing work.



If you would like to support the Winckley family, please scan the QR code to read Matthew's full story on his Just Giving page, or click the link below.

[www.justgiving.com/page/matthew-winckley-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=EM](http://www.justgiving.com/page/matthew-winckley-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM)





## NICK KENYON OS 95 REPORTS:

Over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of November 2025 former pupils of OS 1995 attended their 30-year reunion at the College. The weekend commenced with informal gatherings throughout the Ribble Valley as not-so-young men rekindled old friendships and caught up on 30 years of families and careers prior to rapidly reverting back into our teenage selves.

Formal proceedings commenced on Saturday morning with a buffet lunch in the Bailey Room, hosted by the Headmaster John Browne. Following a robust but light-hearted debate over whether the school was better 30 years on, luncheon concluded and OS 95 were given a guided tour of the parts of the College that we were never previously allowed into. The glory of the Arundell Library and its many fantastic relics were experienced by many for the first time and all agreed that we would have benefitted from having access to such a fantastic resource at our fingertips during our time at the College.

We then decamped to Phils Field to watch Stonyhurst U 15s take on the might of Ampleforth College. Memories came flooding back to all those who had graced the pitches of Stonyhurst and the great memories that were made whether that was playing in the 1st XV or the 4th XV. Unfortunately watching the match also served as a timely reminder of the 30 years that had passed as several OS in attendance had children playing in the match. Victory achieved, helped on by the vociferous support from the sidelines, OS 95 decamped to the Shireburn Arms before coming together in the Top Refectory for a black-tie dinner.

The evening was enjoyed by all. OS 95 were joined by John Hopkins (Prev. Rhetoric Playroom Master and David Ridout (Prev. Grammar Playroom Master). Light-hearted but poignant speeches by John Hopkins and Head of Line, Nick Kenyon (whose speeches improve with age or the advent of AI) were followed by a robust rendition of Domine Salvam Fac and the Pater Noster. A walk down the Avenue to the Hurst Green Catholic Club and dare I say it, some of us even made it to a local night club and (despite our age) were actually allowed in.

Sunday morning, unusually for the College, brought sunny skies as OS 95 celebrated mass with the school before walking down the Avenue to observe the Remembrance Sunday parade in the Village. A fantastically well attended event and with the march past of the CCF, in its 125th year since commencement, a particular highlight.

Those who attended included **Robert Ashcroft, Aidan Banks, Michael Bradbury, Ged Brumby, David Bryson, Drew Darcy, Stephen Darley, Quintin Davidson, Alfonso De La Lastra, Tito De Ramon Laca, Nick Devine, Edward Dunbar, Daniel Fattorini, Philip Heneghan, John Hopkins, Charles Isola, Ian Kay, Nick Kenyon, Phillip Lane, Miguel Llano-Cardenal, Patrick McCarthy, Damian McNeela, Jose Miyar, Michael Molloy, Paul Nathan, Marcus Navin Jones, Miguel Nigorra Cobian, John O'Maoileoin, Enping Ong, Ben Ramsden, David Ridout.**

As the weekend came to a close we all agreed that our time at the College is still a huge part of who we are, resulting in a number of OS travelling many thousands of miles to attend. Notable mention to: Ping Ong (**Singapore**), Quintin Davidson (**Dubai**), Ian Kay, Nick Devine, Steve Darley (**Canada**), Rob Ashcroft (**Chicago**), Marcus Navin-Jones (**Belgium**) and a large **Spanish** contingent Alfonso De La Lastra, Tito De Ramon Laca, Miguel Llano Cardenal, Miguel Nigorra and Jose Miyar.

Our thanks go to the College for hosting the reunion and to Jo-anne and Layla in the Association office for organising the weekend so efficiently and making this such a special event for those of us lucky enough to be there. *Quant Je Puis.*



## TOM DANIEL OS 85 REPORTS ON THEIR 40TH YEAR REUNION, 19-21 SEPTEMBER 2025

In 2010, 45 of us had gathered (coordinated by email and Facebook) at the College. This time, a WhatsApp group chat (that sometimes tops 70 members) fired up in late 2023. When should we meet again?

In the end it was a full September weekend in 2025 opening with a pub and a curry in Blackburn on Friday. On Saturday 51 of us gathered in a noisy committee room -now the Oscar Romero room – where Tom Daniel (the organiser) set out the rest of the weekend. We then took a guided tour around the College before lunch in the Bailey room during which an address from Major Cobb was read out. Many, for the first time, enjoyed a visit to the Arundell Library (and Collections) before heading to Smithfield to watch the College 1st XV triumph in the Lancashire rain over Bradford Grammer – 24 points to nil.

That evening we gathered in the Top Ref for dinner and during a superb meal – addresses were read out from Graham Mitchell and Charlie Foulds (who was it who wrote FOCF in the Common Place?). Memories were shared long into the evening before we turned in sometime in the small hours.

It had been touch and go if our brother **Fr Simon Bishop SJ OS 85** would be strong enough to attend. He was and he led us in grace before and after every meal, blessed our reunion, playroom and families in the Sodality Chapel and told hilarious stories. We had asked to sit in the back two rows of St Peters at Sunday Mass that Simon concelebrated.

The committee ushers tried to send us to receive The Sacrament at the back of the church – but we, instead, turned resolutely down the aisle towards the altar to receive communion from Father Simon instead. Before his closing speech he described the weekend and the joy of seeing 50 of his old playroom walking towards him to receive communion as “seemingly God sent”.

It is worth calling out those who travelled from abroad and afar: Simon Crellin (Isle of Man), Hans van Oordt (Jersey), Sean Devaney (Ireland), from Malta: Julien Bugeja and Josef Formosa-Gaucci, from Spain: Steve Ibbotson, Richard Hopkins (Croatia), Sean O’Hea (Mexico), Adam Cafferata (Bahamas), Nick Dauplay (Canada), Andrew Kelly (USA), Hiroshi and Ayako Ishida (Japan), from Hong Kong: Harold Leong and Jonathan Finnigan and, finally Ben McKeown from Australia.

Finally, we would like to thank Jo-anne Brown and her superb Association team and anyone else who helped for making it such a superb 40-year reunion. Here’s to 2030!

*Editor’s note: I was fortunate to be present in Sodality when Fr Simon blessed the reunion of his fellow playroom members. A most poignant moment for everyone there. He will be greatly missed. RIP Fr Simon.*

**[www.jesuit.org.uk/news/rest-in-peace-fr-simon-bishop-sj-1967-2026](http://www.jesuit.org.uk/news/rest-in-peace-fr-simon-bishop-sj-1967-2026)**



Attendees: **Charlie Butcher, Julian Bugeja, Dr Pierce Bradley, Simon Bishop SJ, Tom Burke, Tom Bible, Adam Cafferata, Graeme Coulthard, Richard Cooper, Simon Crellin, Gavin Duffy (& Lynne Storey), Martin Dachs, Mark Darwent, Nicholas Dauplay, Richard Durant, Sean Devaney, Major Tom Daniel, Jez Eastham, Mr Brian Fish, Chris Fendt, Josef Formosa-Gaucci, Jonathan Finnigan, Victor Fauvelle, David Hart, Guy Hetherington, Doctor Kent Haworth, Richard Hopkins, Rob Hill, Hiroshi Ishida (& Ayako), Stephen Ibbotson, David Johnson, Tony Jones, Andrew Kelly, His Honour Judge Harold Leong, Ben McKeown, Paul Morgan, Sean O’Hea, Peter Prada, Romano Petrucci MBE, Colonel Alistair Rogers, Alex Romer, Didier Raffray, Simón Angel Rodriguez, Paul Sparks, Rowan Somerville, Bill Twibill, Hans Van Oordt, Carlos Wilkinson, Jonathan Warne, Dr Dom Yu.**



### **Fr Simon Bishop SJ (1967 – 2025) OS 85**

It is with sadness that we report that Fr Simon Bishop SJ died on Sunday January 4th 2026. May he rest in peace.

Simon Bishop was 58 years old and in the 33rd year of Religious life.

He was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 28th March 1967 to father, George, who died on 30th November 2001, and mother, Dawn. He was the youngest of four children. Simon was baptised at St. Peter’s, Oyster Bay, Dar es Salaam on 8th April 1967. Several happy early years were spent in Fiji. He was confirmed at St. Peter’s, Stonyhurst on 4th November 1979.

Simon went to school at Stonyhurst (1975-85) before studying Theology at Cambridge University (1986-89), after which he qualified as a social worker at York University (1990-92). In September 1993, he entered the Jesuit novitiate in Birmingham. Studies in philosophy followed at Heythrop College (1995-98) before a time of Regency, teaching and youth ministry at Wimbledon College. Simon then went for theology studies at Centre Sevres in Paris, being ordained deacon there at St Ignace (2003).

He was ordained priest at the Sacred Heart, Wimbledon, that same year. In 2004 after completing studies, Simon was missioned as Chaplain to St. Aloysius College, Glasgow. In 2006, he was given the task of Vocations Promoter. Simon went for Tertianship in Australia (2009) via a visit to Guyana. Post-tertianship, Simon went to the Oxford Chaplaincy as Assistant Chaplain, becoming the Senior Chaplain in 2010. It was in Oxford that he took his Final Vows in the Society in November 2011. After three years from 2014 as Director of Spirituality for the Province, Simon was appointed Novice Master in September 2017. It was in this role that his illness first struck. He continued to work for as long as and in any way that he could, being an exemplary presence in the Birmingham community.

Please pray for the repose of his soul; to pray also for the consolation of his mother, Dawn, and for all the family and friends.

## JOHN CARTWRIGHT-TERRY OS 96 REPORTS ON THE HOPPERS EVENT 2026



From left to right; **Martin Hothersall OS 72**, Brenda and Mike O'Hare (Former teacher), **Terry Holt OS 72**, **Malcolm Brown OS 71**, **John Mulholland OS 71**, **David Racktsraw OS 72**.

### John Cartwright-Terry OS 96 reports on the Hoppers Event 2026:

Stonyhurst and rugby are synonymous, but it would be easy to leave the cliché at that. Whilst the game is vehicle for so many good behaviours, it also provides a sensible platform for our Stonyhurst family to galvanise itself into something so much deeper and powerful: For many OS, rugby was very much the sideshow throughout their school days, perhaps even actively disliking playing with odd shaped balls; but there can be few more bonding experiences than coming together, regardless of the event, to reminisce of the good, bad and indifferent days of the past.

On Saturday 24th January 2026, the Stonyhurst Association met once again for my favourite event in the Association calendar: the Preston Grasshoppers Lunch, this time as the curtain-raiser for their home match against Sheffield. Organised with meticulous care by **Martin Hothersall OS 72**, as has been the case for many years, it followed its tried-and-tested format: a great lunch and good-quality rugby, lubricated with cold beer, and accompanied by the banter and companionship of the Stonyhurst family.

This year's event attracted 83 OS, partners and friends from across the UK and a representative from Zimbabwe in **Eddie Whitfield OS 88**. For me, it represented a second reunion in as many days, having been jogging around Sedbergh's fells the previous weekend. The gluttons for Stonyhurst camaraderie were identifiable, with at least four repeat appearances, all clearly still in need of rehydrating from their last week's effort!

Represented were the OS of the 1960s through to the 2020s, as well as past and present parents and staff of Stonyhurst. The breadth and diversity of the attendance were truly heartening, and they only served to bear out Fr Giles Schondonch SJ's assertion that Stonyhurst is "a family like no other" and to remind us of the Association's role and precedent as the glue that holds our family together.

There were the usual suspects from OS 87, back together for their annual mini-reunion, along with many familiar faces from previous years and some new faces at this event. For me., with an impending house move to Grimsargh, it was wonderful to meet the local OS contingent, including **Michael Jackson OS 67** and former Ireland Football Goalkeeper, Alan Kelly Jr., father of **Bertie Kelly OS 23** (and current Stonyhurst football coach).

It was wonderful to see strong attendance from younger OS, including **Claudia Bovingdon OS 12**, who was recently appointed

Association Ambassador for Lancashire. Claudia has promised some more Association gatherings in Lancashire and has set up an **OS in Lancashire WhatsApp group** to gather our community together. Please join the group if you live in Lancashire and would like to be kept informed of future gatherings.

The excellent lunch provided by Preston Grasshoppers got the afternoon off to a great start, and with beer and conversation flowing freely, it was too soon onto the match. Despite a spirited performance, the Hoppers were comprehensively beaten by Sheffield, losing 17-52 to the visitors, a result that brought a few wry smiles to our faces as we reflected on our own Stonyhurst rugby reminiscences and updates on the college today.

Our thanks go to Martin Hothersall and to all at Preston Grasshoppers for hosting us so generously.

Here's to another successful event and to many more reunions in the years to come.



**Courtney Thompson OS 12**, **Leah Paulden OS 12**, **Dario Mastrobuoni OS 12**, **Adam Rawkins OS 12**, **Lucy Entwistle** and **Claudia Bovingdon OS 12**.

# OTHER REUNIONS



## London OS 20 Mini Reunion:

In November 2025, a group of OS 20 met up with Tim Hanley, Assistant Head Co-Curricular, in Kensington for drinks.

Present were **Fenella Lamle OS 20**, **Max Leonardi OS 20**, **Kim Bridgeman OS 20**, **Alfie Tomalin-Reeves OS 20**, **Florence Frank OS 20** and **Eduardo Díaz-Río Varez OS 20**. Mr Hanley reports that he was delighted that such recent OS could afford the price of drinks in that neck of the woods!

## OS 71 Mini Reunion:

On 26th October 2025, **David da Silva OS 71** hosted a party for his friends and family at the Hurlingham Yacht Club in Putney. David lives in Mumbai. There were six OS 71 in attendance. Left to right: **Jamie Sutton**, **John Mulholland**, **Andrew Lubienski**, **Professor Charles Kelly**, **John Bowen** and **David da Silva**.



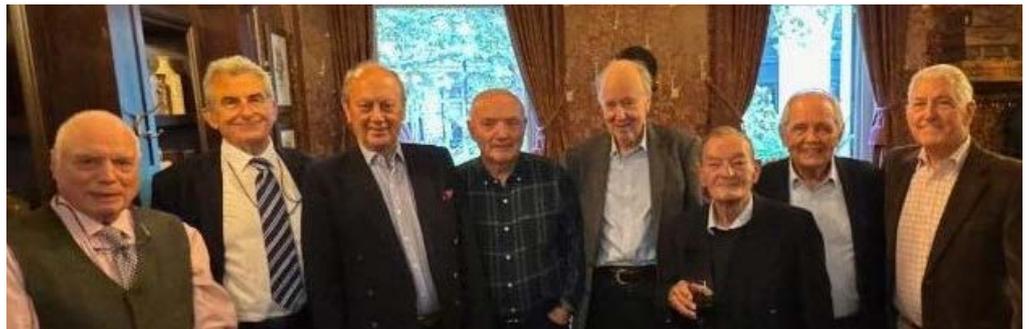
## OS 72 State Visit:

Following in the footsteps of The Donald, **Col Warren Fox USMC OS 72**, and his good lady DeAnsin, made a 'State Visit' from his San Diego home to meet his OS 72 contemporaries in the UK.

The banquet was held at a curry house in Manchester. It was notable that **Warren**, **Tony Barry**, **Alisdair Hymers** and **Robert Milne** had all started as boarders at Hodder in 1962-63.

An Octet of Octogenarians gathered on 15th October 2025, at the Sherlock Holmes pub, Whitehall for a convivial event.

L to R: **Mike Bassett OS 63**, **Andrew Carrington OS 63**, **Raymond Low OS 62**, **Tony Summers OS 63**, **David Maxwell-Scott OS 62**, **Ian Southward OS 63**, **David da Cunha OS 63**, **Chris Flint OS 62**.



A group of ex-pats in Portugal who attended Worth, Ampleforth, Downside and Stonyhurst – who refer to themselves as WADS – have continued their reunion dinners in Portugal.

On the 20th November 2025, seven of the group met at the *Grémio Literário*, in Lisbon, for a meal together. It is reported by Mark and Phil (both OG) that they have about 19 people on their WhatsApp group and that they hope to meet twice a year as an informal gathering.

They invite anyone now in Portugal to feel free to get in touch by email at [wadspportugal@gmail.com](mailto:wadspportugal@gmail.com)

The photo shows from left to right; **Diego da Cunha OS 86**, **Mark Davies** (Downside), **João Coruche** (Ampleforth), **Phil Dougall** (Downside), **Duarte Saldanha OS 2000**, **Tom Davis** (Ampleforth), **Edmund de Freitas OS 87**. Picture supplied by Duarte Saldanha.

# COLLEGE NEWS

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS: STONYHURST IN THE TOP 1% NATIONALLY

We are delighted to share that Stonyhurst has been placed in the top 1% of schools nationally for value-added progress (ALPS), reflecting the exceptional academic journey of our pupils.

In 2025, A level pupils achieved outstanding results, with 81% of grades at A\*-B (compared to a national average of 55.2%), while International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme pupils secured strong outcomes, with a growing number progressing to Russell Group and leading international universities.

This success highlights the strength of teaching across the school and our commitment to nurturing every pupil's potential, academically, creatively and personally. With pathways including A-Levels, the IBDP and vocational qualifications, Stonyhurst continues to offer a truly personalised approach to education, supporting pupils to exceed expectations and thrive.



## INVESTING IN CREATIVITY: NEW ART AND DESIGN CENTRE OPENS

Stonyhurst College has recently unveiled its new Art and Design Centre, marking a significant investment in creative education and future-focused learning.

The Centre brings together purpose-built studios for Fine Art, Photography, Textiles and Design and Technology, supporting the introduction of new curriculum subjects including Textile Design and Design and Technology. These inspiring spaces provide pupils with access to industry-standard facilities while encouraging innovation, craftsmanship and creative confidence, reinforcing Stonyhurst's commitment to developing the whole person.



## RECOGNISED NATIONALLY: BEST OF THE BEST BOARDING

Stonyhurst has been named Best of the Best Boarding School by *The Week Independent Schools Guide*, celebrating our distinctive boarding experience and strong sense of community.

The award reflects the strength of Stonyhurst's modern boarding offering, combining exceptional pastoral care with flexible boarding options and a values-led education. It recognises a community where pupils are supported to flourish academically and personally, preparing them with confidence for life beyond school.

## LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS REPORT



**AMDG. 1st XV Lancashire Cup Final – 28th January 2026** written by **Ludwig** 1st XV Captain and Head of Line

### Stonyhurst 1st XV vs Scarisbrick Hall 1st XV

On Wednesday 28th January, the 1st XV had the privilege of playing the Lancashire Cup Final against Scarisbrick Hall School. It was a game that tested us physically, mentally and as a team, and one that I think says a lot about who we are as a school.

We had already played Scarisbrick earlier this season and knew exactly what was coming, a very physical and intense side. That first game was rough, and although we had won it, nothing was guaranteed going into a county

final. From the first whistle, we gave them too much space to run at us, and they exploited it exactly how you would expect a team like that would do. Within the first few minutes, they crossed the try line making it 0-7 which really set us back. But instead of panicking, we responded well. We settled into the game, tightened things up and were rewarded with a beautiful kick by Tom, who calmly slotted a penalty to bring us back into it. Not long after we scored a brilliant try, Tom kicked it cross field, which was picked up by Sampson, who finished it perfectly. Just before half time Scarisbrick managed to score again, although they could not convert, meaning we went into the break 12-10 down.



At that point, some started to doubt whether we could turn the game around and be victorious. But what mattered most was what happened next. Whilst Scarisbrick stayed outside, we went into the changing rooms, regrouped and reminded ourselves who we



a full-team performance, every player doing their job, backing each other up and showing real belief till the end. This collective effort is what really won us the final.



But we weren't alone out there, as we had almost 500 supporters, pretty much the whole school travelled to support us, along with a strong presence from parents and OS. That support was extraordinary; the atmosphere was unreal; the noise, the energy, the encouragement – it genuinely lifted us when we needed it the most.

To our coaching staff, Mr Faulkner-Porter, Mr Rothwell, Mr Gaffey and especially Mr Jackson – thank you. What everyone saw on Wednesday was 70 minutes of high-class coaching and rugby, but what they did not see was the year of hard work behind it. The cold training sessions, the fitness, the video analysis and the discipline set every single week, this laid the foundation for everything we achieved this season thanks to Mr Jackson's trust and recognition into every single one of us. This cup was not won in one match- it was built over months of commitment and belief. LDS.



were playing for. Mr Jackson gave some very motivational words, which really struck a chord with us, such that we went back onto the pitch a completely different team who wanted to give everything for each other.

We now started to really fight for every carry, every tackle and every breakdown. We played smarter rugby, understood exactly what their game plan was, and stopped giving them what they wanted. Our forwards stepped up, outworking them at scrum time and in the line outs, and that pressure paid off with two classic forward tries from Henry and Freddie. We controlled the game far better, imposed ourselves physically and tactically, and then Sampson added another try to cap things off, resulting in a tremendous win of 31-17. It was

Winning this cup means so much to the team, especially to those who played last year when we lost. To come back, to earn another chance and get it right this time made the victory even sweeter. It was not just about lifting the trophy but about resilience and proving to ourselves that setbacks don't define us.



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## “O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL”

In December, Stonyhurst returned to London for its annual Carol Service at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street.

We were delighted to be joined by so many members of the Stonyhurst Family, including OS, past and current parents, donors and members of the wider Stonyhurst community. This was possibly the largest attendance to date, it was an event filled with joy, reflection, and Christmas spirit.

The church rang out with song, led by our brilliant choir, Schola Petri, and accompanied by our fantastic music teachers, Andrew Henderson and Matthew Haynes.

Following the Service, the Arrupe Hall was once again abuzz with laughter and chatter as friends, old and new, gathered for refreshments.

Next year's Carol Service is already booked, and plans are underway. More details will be released in due course, but for now be sure to Save the Date and join us on the **4th December 2026**.



## STONYHURST'S NEXT INNINGS

A big thank you to those who have donated to this cause following the article in the last Stonyhurst Association Newsletter.

For over 130 years the Cricket Pavilion has stood proud on the Stonyhurst Estate. It has long been the focal point for key events; it stands up and provides much needed shelter against the Ribble Valley weather. To this day, it continues to play a part in key Stonyhurst moments for pupils, OS, parents and staff.

After generations of cricketers using the Pavilion, suffering the piercing grip of boot spikes, and standing strong against the Ribble Valley weather, we were planning to refurbish the Pavilion. However, the need became more urgent when our beloved Pavilion suffered two arson attacks. We are incredibly grateful to the Lancashire Fire Brigade whose quick action saved the building, providing us with the opportunity to refurbish the facility so that future generations of cricketers can walk those steps and take to the field.

If you would like to support this fundraising initiative, we would be most grateful. Please contact the Development Office or visit **Support Stonyhurst | Donate & Gift Options**



## PICTURE PERFECT

Peter Brown, a.k.a. Pete the Street, perfectly captures Stonyhurst in his paintings. Whether the Stonyhurst buildings and estate or the day-to-day life within the school, Peter manages to produce the essence of Stonyhurst life in oil form. Come rain, snow or the occasional sunshine, Peter embraced the weather to prove that Stonyhurst is beautiful in all weather.

Working mostly in oil, but sometimes charcoal, and very occasionally pastel, Peter has received numerous awards and is a member of several national art societies, most notably the NEAC (New English Art Club) where he has recently completed a five-year term as the society's President.

He paints for one-man shows each year – either in London or Bath – and has been exhibiting with Messums London since 2004. He has recently worked on a major exhibition of New York paintings for a debut show in Manhattan with Messums.

Worried you missed the opportunity to own one of his beautiful paintings? Don't worry, there are still some paintings available. You could have the warmth of the More Library, or the Long Room featured in your home or enjoy looking across the Stonyhurst estate to Pendle or staring down the Avenue from the comfort of your own chair!

For more information and to possibly find the perfect painting, and memory, for you. **Visit Stonyhurst – Pete the Street.** In addition, two of the paintings have been produced as limited edition prints and are available to purchase. Please contact [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk) to buy a print.



## PATRONS, ASSOCIATES AND FRIENDS OF THE STONYHURST MUSEUM

It is wonderful to see our Patrons, Associates and Friends initiative continue to develop and membership grow.

Recently, using the income so generously provided by our members' subscriptions, the Museum was able to secure a beautiful English recusant chalice. Dating from the reign of Charles I (c.1640) it has an impressive provenance. The chalice was used at the secret Jesuit mission of Holbeck, Nottinghamshire, in the 17th century. It was donated to Holbeck by the Powtrel family, who had sheltered Edmund Campion in January 1581.

The chalice survived a government raid on Holbeck in 1679 and was moved for safekeeping to the larger Jesuit mission at Spinkhill, Derbyshire, and thence to Mount St Mary's in the 19th century. In November 2025, items from the former Jesuit College at Mount St Mary's were put up for auction and the Stonyhurst Museum purchased the chalice, thereby safekeeping this object which is integral to our history as a Jesuit college.

We were delighted that it was used on the altar at the moving 2025 celebration of Campion Day in St Peter's at Stonyhurst.

If you would like to support the Stonyhurst Museum, helping us to enhance and protect our collections you can subscribe as a 'Patron', 'Associate' or 'Friend' of the Stonyhurst Museum & Archives.

Benefits of membership include:

- A complimentary welcome pack
- Regular communications
- The opportunity to attend Museum & Archives events
- Unlimited free entry to the Museum & Historic Libraries during the public opening times.

Membership has also been bought as gifts for loved ones, and our Museum and Archives Team would be happy to discuss these options with you.

Alternatively, you can support the Museum & Archives by making a single or regular donation.

Stonyhurst has been, and remains, indebted to the generosity of others to ensure the work of the Museum & Archives can continue to flourish.

If you have any further queries regarding this initiative or making donations, please contact us at:

[museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:museumandarchives@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

To find out more and to subscribe visit:  
**Stonyhurst Museum – Support Us**

*FRIEND*

- Unlimited free entry to the Museum & Historic Libraries during summer opening times;
- e-newsletters from the team;
- Discounted Museum & Archives literature (discounted 10%);
- Priority booking for public guided tours and events.

*Associate*

- Through this more personalised access, Associates will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the collection they help to preserve.
- Unlimited free entry for the Associate and a guest to visit the Museum and Historic Libraries during summer opening times;
- e-newsletters from the team;
- Discounted Museum & Archives literature (discounted 25%);
- Priority booking for public guided tours and events;
- The option to be included as a supporter on our Friends, Associates and Patrons webpage;
- Invitations to exclusive evenings with the Curator and Archivist.

*PATRON*

- Unlimited free entry for the Patron and a guest to the Museum and Historic Libraries during summer opening times;
- One annual exclusive access tour for the Patron and a small group (up to 10 people) by arrangement in advance, at a time deemed appropriate by the Curator;
- e-Newsletters from the team;
- Discounted Museum & Archives literature (discounted 40%);
- Patrons-only opportunities for annual exclusive behind-the-scenes events with the Curator and/or Archivist;
- The option to be included as a supporter on our Friends, Associates and Patrons webpage;
- Invitations to special one-off events, such as external loan exhibitions. Recent such events have included private views at the British Museum and Hampton Court Palace.

STONYHURST  
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## RUBENS

The Stonyhurst Museum has a wonderful painting collection, which features a variety of mediums, painting sizes and subject matters. Perhaps one of the largest paintings is 'The Holy Family with Saints Peter and Paul' attributed to the workshop of Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640). This is a beautiful painting, however after decades of display, it has become that it is in need of cleaning and restoration.

We understood that this would be a big project, would require significant funding and would take a significant amount of time to complete. Thankfully our pupils rose to the challenge and began fundraising at the 2024 Poetry Ball with the project becoming their Rhetoric Gift, the traditional pupils' gift back to the College, as a means of thanks for the experience they received during their time at Stonyhurst.

We are pleased that plans are in place to begin the process of restoring this beautiful and important painting. We look forward to sharing updates with you as the project progresses. To find out more about this project, please contact [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk)



## STONYHURST DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

We are delighted to confirm that after a comprehensive and lengthy interview process John Coggin has been appointed to the role of Director of Fundraising, where he will be responsible for fundraising for Stonyhurst and The Stonyhurst Foundation.

John is an American, completing his BA in Communication Media at North Carolina State University and his Masters of Theological Studies in Religion, Ethics and Politics at Harvard Divinity School. He moved to the UK in January 2020 and is currently working for the University of Nottingham as Deputy Director, Communications & Advocacy.

John has a 14-year career in the international charity, corporate and education sectors both in the US and UK.

John is on the Harvard Alumni Association Board of Directors and is currently completing a PhD in Theology and Religious Studies at Durham University.

We are delighted that John will be joining Stonyhurst at the beginning of March 2026 and look forward to welcoming him to the Stonyhurst family.

## YOUR LEGACY CAN HELP SHAPE THEIR FUTURE

Legacy gifts are invaluable. They contribute significantly to key projects, ensuring that Stonyhurst continues to thrive. Gifts in Wills can make life-changing differences to a pupil's education, with no extra cost to the benefactor during their lifetime.

We hope that you may consider leaving a gift in your Will to Stonyhurst, thereby leaving a lasting impact on a cause that you care for and ensuring that our ethos and mission are preserved for generations to come. Quite simply, your legacy could help shape their future.

Membership of the Thomas Weld Society is offered to those who have generously made a legacy gift to Stonyhurst, thus keeping the connection with our benefactor, Thomas Weld. We aim to hold a yearly event, at Stonyhurst, for members of the Society to thank them for their generosity and to share memories with the Stonyhurst community.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift to Stonyhurst in your Will, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Development Team, who would be pleased to help.

[development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

01254 827026



# THE STONYHURST FOUNDATION



## 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Stonyhurst Foundation celebrated the fifth anniversary of its launch with a small reception on Friday 12th September 2025 at the Aviary Rooftop, Montcalm Hotel in Finsbury Square, London.

The event was hosted by Eugene Nealon, Chair of the Foundation and he was delighted to be joined by a number of the Foundation Trustees, representatives from Stonyhurst, including Christine Keunen, Chair of Governors, as well as supporters who had been instrumental in the initial establishment of the Foundation. We were also really pleased that a number of younger OS who had had involvement with the Foundation during their time at College were able to attend the celebrations.



In his speech Eugene Nealon commented:

*“The success of the Foundation would not have been possible without the work of many...*

*I would like to thank Christine Keunen, Chair of Governors and the Stonyhurst Governing body for having the foresight to realise the importance of a separate bursary fund, to John Browne, Stonyhurst Headmaster, for his support to date and to Fr Chris Cann, Headmaster of SMH and Foundation Trustee who we are delighted to be working with more fully as he steps into his role of Acting Head in 2026. Our thanks extend to the staff at Stonyhurst who assist the Foundation in so many ways. From the Catering and Domestic Teams who help with our events, to the Accounts Team who we work so closely with, to Dr Jan Graffius who offers tours and talks for visitors and Paul Sharples and Lorna Goggin who have been so generous in assisting with events – a family like no other.*

*Our intention is to build on the Foundation’s early success and with solid plans in place to continue to grow our endowment allowing the Foundation to finance bursaries at Stonyhurst for years to come.”*

Though we had to dodge the rain showers on the evening it was a lovely way to celebrate the success of the Foundation to date and to look to the future.

The Foundation would like to thank CCLA Investment Management and Nealon Affinity Partners for their very kind sponsorship of the event.



## STONYHURST MEXICO TRIP

Our grateful thanks go to the Mariscal and Castellanos families for their outstanding hospitality when Eugene Nealon, Chair of the Foundation, joined John Browne, Headmaster and Christine Keunen, Chair of Governors on their visit to Mexico in November 2025.

The trip encompassed meeting with OS, as well as current and prospective families, and celebrating the strength of our global Stonyhurst community.

Eugene gave an update on progress of the Foundation to date and thanked the Mexican OS for their generous support of the Foundation's "Mexican Friends Fund" in its first five years.

The Foundation looks forward to continuing to work closely with OS in Mexico to grow support for the Foundation.



The Stonyhurst Foundation

Find out more at [www.stonyhurstfoundation.org](http://www.stonyhurstfoundation.org)

# WANDERERS' NEWS



**Hugh Dickinson OS 97**, Captain of the Wanderers Cross-Country, reports:

It was with a certain amount of trepidation that I received the Old Sedberghian captain's invitation to enter a team for the newly named Symonds Run for the first time. The Symonds Run at Sedbergh School, formerly known as the Morgan Run, is a historic 4.8-mile (approx. 7.5km) cross-country race on Frostrow Fell. Renamed in 2025 in honour of Hugh Symonds, a legendary former staff member of Sedbergh and passionate fell runner, who organised the event for many years.

Sedbergh have a formidable sporting reputation and cross-country is no different with Sedbergh worthy winners at the annual Alumni Race on Wimbledon Common (inter public schools' cross-country competition) many times over the past few years. For context, the last time the Old Amplefordians entered a team into the Symonds Run, they declined to race on the day due to the perceived dangerous level of snow and ice on the fell but it went ahead anyway – they have not returned!

I said to Geoff Watson the Old Sedberghian captain that I would test the appetite of our team to participate and to my surprise there was a more than enthusiastic response.

I hadn't returned to Sedbergh since school days but the setting amidst the fells was instantly familiar. I also brought with me a secret weapon – not in fact my 9-year-old son Otto who was determined to race following a successful outing at Stonyhurst – but Charlie Taylor a former Black Watch officer and former army colleague who had been living in the Swiss Alps and training at altitude. He was not at Stonyhurst (indeed his uncle Robert Swan who is the first person to walk to both Poles was at Sedbergh!) but he was free and willing, and we would need all the help we could get!

We arrived at the start of the race to be greeted by the daunting sight of 420 runners preparing for the race plus innumerable supporters. There were 18 teams competing and apart from the school first Xills (both male and female), there were Alumni teams, staff

teams, house teams, prep school team and even a team from the Lancashire League which Sedbergh is a part of. The headmaster himself set a fine example by taking part in the race.

As our team gathered, we took stock – we were missing some strong runners with both Brian Thursby-Pelham, a stalwart of the team and Will Metcalf, the fastest runner at our last outing at Stonyhurst both injured. However, we were much heartened by the presence of the irrepressible Jonty Warneken in support who had come across from North Yorkshire via the Lakes where he had been indulging his passion for open water swimming. Jonty is the next President of the Stonyhurst Association, and we felt privileged to have him supporting the team.

The OS Cross-Country Team has always been a family affair, and this time was no different with siblings Simon and Lucy Rowland and Nick and Rich Kenyon competing and I was joined by my son Otto.

Many had travelled a long distance for the race but none more so than Simon Rowland who had come all the way from Stockholm.

I can only report on the race as I saw it which was not from the front of the pack! Amazingly, the weather was set fair following horrendous conditions before and after the race although very wet underfoot. Due to the large numbers of runners, there were two start points with the front pack which we were part of released first and the second consisting of the school runners a minute behind. This meant we were in very real danger of being run down by a stampede of rugby forwards coming from behind! We set off across field and fell, through a river and then a long stony uphill stretch onto the top of Fostrow Fell where we were encouraged onwards by supporters with Labradors in tow.

The spirit of the pupils, with no doubt many slightly unwilling participants in their house teams, was nevertheless not in doubt and I heard a shout of "don't let that old man from Stonyhurst beat us!" as I passed a group of them uphill. The course headed back down to the road and then to what I believed to be

the finish line but with a devilish final twist of half a mile just when the end seemed in sight.

Given the number of runners, we couldn't be sure how our team had performed in the race except that we had all 'quant je puis'd' it! However, rumours began to circulate at the race tea that the Old Stonyhurst group might have achieved the unthinkable and felled the mighty Sedbergh at first attempt on their home turf. We had and did in fact finish 4th out of the 18 teams that had entered the event with Old Sedbergh in 6th place – a creditable attempt and meant we could hold our heads high amongst the Sedbergh masses. Undeniably our finest result to date with shades of our first race at Ampleforth many years ago when Brian Thursby-Pelham stunned the field to finish in first place.

There was an excellent performance by Simon Rowland to finish 8th out of 419 runners with a time of 30:48. Paul O'Connor, who along with his brother Greg is always a strong contender came in 17th followed by Rich Kenyon at 39th. Charlie Taylor came in 43rd, Evan Hodgson in 48th with Nick Kenyon completing our scoring runners in 64th place. Very well done to those runners.

Special mention for Lucy Rowland as the only female competitor in our team who finished 28th in the female event – a commendable result. Our aim is to field a full female team in the next race.

Other runners included Tim O'Brien OS, Hideo Takano OS, John Cartwright-Terry OS, and Anthony Hartley. J C-T has now competed in almost every Wanderers team so we were delighted he could add a cross-country feather to his cap. Peter Pelly, our most senior runner at Sedbergh, historically has competed (and previously won his age category) at the Alumni in Wimbledon but has recently moved from Wiltshire to North Yorkshire and thus joined this slightly tougher Northern event for the first time! He was slightly disadvantaged by the lack of trail shoes particularly following a recent hip replacement but nevertheless performed commendably and assures me he will have the correct footwear for the next race at Stonyhurst!

Last but not least, and much to the pride of his father, a great effort by Otto Dickinson who at 9 years old was the youngest runner in the race and finished a very commendable 335th. I admit being slightly nervous when I left him behind at the start of the race, so it was with not a little bit of relief when we saw him coming in, even if he was nearly flattened on the finishing line by an overly zealous competitor!

After the match tea, it was then straight off to a fine old drinking establishment, The Dalesman Country Inn in Sedbergh for supper with the Old Sedberghian team. This was a jolly occasion where we were very well hosted and joined for a drink by Chris Mahon OS who is a long serving sports master at Sedbergh. This reminded us of the connections between the two schools and the long sporting rivalry. Many of the older Sedbergh runners reminisced about the legendary Laurence Catlow (OS) who taught Classics and fives at Sedbergh for many years and is well known for his many books on field sports. It was a pity that the other OS master at Sedbergh Leo Higham is currently on a placement in New Zealand so could not join us for the race.

Finally, I would comment on how impressed we all were by the excellent organisation of the event and by the warm welcome that Sedbergh gave us. The pupils were a massive advertisement for the school – seeing so many of them competing and displaying such a level of resilience was truly impressive.

I have every hope that the next race at Stonyhurst to which we will invite the Old Sedbergh and Old Amplefordians will be similarly inspiring.

However, next up is the Alumni Race on Wimbledon Common in September which on current form we will aim to win for the first time!



Back row from left to right: **Tim O'Brien OS 90, John Cartwright-Terry OS 96, Anthony Hartley, Peter Pelly OS 75, Richard Kenyon OS 98, Jonty Warneken OS 90, Charlie Taylor, Evan Hodgson OS 22, Paul O'Connor OS 22, Lucy Rowland Old SMH.**

Bottom row from left to right: **Nick Kenyon OS 95, Simon Rowland OS 05, Hideo Takano OS 84, Otto Dickinson, Hugh Dickinson OS 97.**

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# BOOKS OF INTEREST TO OS

**Dominic Boddington MBE OS 69** provides a review of ***Streams of Consciousness Under Norfolk Skies*** by **John Gordon-Saker OS 71**.  
*Photography by Sally Lloyd*

I first went to North Norfolk four years before I went to Stonyhurst. A family holiday in 1962 took us to stay in a cottage in Blakeney where we enjoyed safe dinghy sailing in Blakeney harbour, played in the World War 2 gun turrets on the dykes above the saltmarshes at Cley, and experienced the awesome space and majesty of Holkham beach. These holidays were repeated every year until the summer of 1967.

Earlier that year I had met John Gordon-Saker. I accompanied him on one of those crazy school outings where a coach would drop fifty boys in the centre of Liverpool or Manchester and we would entertain ourselves for the day. John lived in Liverpool and I think it was his suggestion that we take a train to Southport. In the afternoon he left us to go to Anfield where his team had a mid-week home game. By the time I got to know John again half a century later he was, like me, a Norwich City supporter.

In middle age those childhood memories of Norfolk took me back there to work. I lived for fifteen years in Norwich and a further ten years near the north coast. In that period, I rediscovered all the magical scenes of my childhood. And now I have found them all over again in the enchanting photographs and descriptions of John's book, *Streams of Consciousness*.

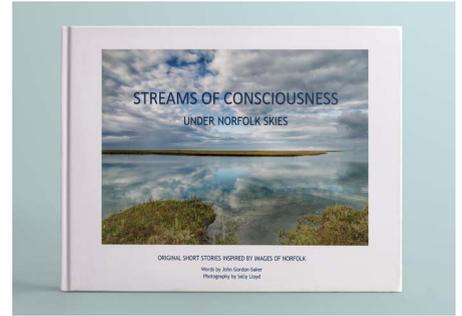
John has clearly spent many hours in these places simply observing people, wildlife and scenes, and absorbing the atmosphere. Each of Sally's carefully chosen photographs is accompanied by John's prose, full of insight, always entertaining, and amusing.

Gav'nor the gull is photographed on the beach

at Cromer. "I mostly let others do the hard work. Gerty, that timid little thing over there, thought she'd bagged a burger off a dumb six-year-old on the prom. Headed out to sea with it. Not very bright that one. I knew she'd have to turn inshore for the scoff. Caught her nicely amidships as she banked. The burger flew out of her beak and into mine as she crashed into the sea."

Wells lifeboat station is photographed under a threatening sky. "Minutes later the wind shifted and flipped us over without warning. Some were thrown overboard. My foot was tangled in a rope, keeping me on board. The screams and cries of my crew mates pierced through the howling wind and rush of the sea. That's what I told the inquest."

Blakeney hotel is photographed from across the harbour. "The next morning, I was on restaurant duty with Ginny on room service. There was Mrs Hartley on a table for four with two children but a different Mr Hartley. I'd learned early on that discretion was paramount."



The other stories are written from similar quirky viewpoints. All bear witness to his love for the county he has made his home. All are gems and quite delightful. But I was slightly disappointed to find not one written from the viewpoint of a canary.

## HOW TO ORDER

*Streams of Consciousness Under Norfolk Skies* (price £19.99 + postage) can be ordered via **Bittern Books *Streams of Consciousness* – Bittern Books** with signed copies available directly from the author's email [jgsnorwich@gmail.com](mailto:jgsnorwich@gmail.com)



Short stories inspired by photographer, Sally Lloyd, with the narratives delightfully observed by John Gordon-Saker. Their combined passion for Norfolk screams off every page and this coffee table book is for any Norfolk devotee or those who might be discovering its diverse attractions for the first time. An entertaining read and a glorious advert for a beautiful county.



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# STONYHURST ASSOCIATION

Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9PZ Tel: 01254 827043  
email: [association@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:association@stonyhurst.ac.uk) web: [association.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://association.stonyhurst.ac.uk)

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