

Saint Julie News

2023



**British Federation of Notre
Dame de Namur Associations**

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“Let us help each other with all
our hearts and all our prayers.”

St. Julie Billiart

Presidents Review

2023 is the 95th year of the British Federation of Notre Dame de Namur. My second year as president began with the 2022 Annual Notre Dame weekend away held at Hinsley Hall in September. A cheque for £3000.00 was presented to the Sisters of Notre Dame to assist them with their water Project in the Congo.

We were fortunate to have three of the Sisters of Notre Dame with us at the September 2022 weekend. Sr Mary O'Brian, Sr Patricia Sullivan and Sr Michael Doyle. Sr Mike (as she likes to be called) came home to the UK 16 years ago after working for 37 years in Nigeria as a missionary. We asked her to tell us something of her time in Nigeria. She gave us a very interesting talk.



The weekend seemed to be enjoyed by all. We had the usual gentle fitness and relaxation session to start off the weekend followed by some fun and games on Friday evening after dinner. The morning drive on Saturday was to the town of Ilkley. It was a very enjoyable weekend. I would like to thank Catherine Orford for organising it so well.

It is sad to say but the numbers attending this Notre Dame weekend away are still quite a bit lower than we had been used to. Many organisations are having the same difficulties but the Covid Pandemic has left a legacy from which we might never recover.

Some of our members are still reluctant to travel or have got too used to the comforts of home. We have a few members who usually attend these weekends but currently have health issues. We miss them all and wish them well. They are all in our prayers.

We have continued to have our executive committee meeting at the Ireneus Centre in Liverpool. I would like to thank Fr Chris for hosting the meetings.

We have had a few changes on the BFNDA Executive Committee this year.

Bernie Shaw has taken over as treasurer following

the resignation of Maureen Wilson. Diane Donovan has taken on the role of Website manager from Mary Lewis. Both Bernie and Diane are past presidents of the BFNDA. Bernie is being assisted with the online accounts by Christina Wood who is a former secretary of the BFNDA. At the AGM Mary Lewis, a former president of the BFNDA and resigning website manager, was thanked for her many years of service on the BFNDA committee.

Sr Maureen McKnight SND is new to the committee and is the Provincial Team Representative of the Sisters of Notre Dame. We greatly value the Federation's links with the Notre Dame Order.

Kim Dearden is the Literary Editor. Kim produced the St Julie News 2022 and again in 2023. I think that you will all agree that she is an excellent literary editor.

Angela Swift is the new representative for Notre Dame, Liverpool.

Hilary Helm is the new representative for Notre Dame, Northampton.

Francesca Flynn is the new Direct Members Convenor.

With so many new members on the executive committee, I was concerned about the smooth continuity of the Federation. Both Bernie and Diane have the valuable experience that we, on the committee, appreciate and I frequently refer to them both with questions about the way that things should be done or have been done before.

There was someone else too who has always been there when asked for help or advice. She has extensive knowledge of Notre Dame and the BFNDA. She was a pupil and teacher at Notre Dame, Manchester and she taught many of us. We asked Veronica Miles if she would join us at the executive committee meetings and I am delighted to say that she agreed.

I had an enquiry from the husband of a one of our late members. He wants to leave a legacy in his will to the Notre Dame charity. I passed some information onto him from the Provincial Team of the Notre Dame Order about the way to deal with this legacy. If anyone else would like this information, would they please contact me?

Notre Dame Manchester had their St Julie's Day Mass and buffet lunch in May. There some games and the usual raffle. It was a lovely day with proceeds being donated to the BFNDA charity.

This year I was invited to Notre Dame Northampton and Notre Dame Southwark for their AGM and lunch. I had a lovely day at both places and was made very welcome.

The meeting and lunch in Northampton was held at Freemason's Hall and was very well-attended. I was welcomed by Hilary Helm, treasurer and BFNDA representative and Margaret Bradbury, president.

I was asked to give a short talk to their members. I gave them a brief summary of the aims of the BFNDA and thanked them for their support of the previous BFNDA charity which was the renovation of the school in Nigeria being run by the Sisters of Notre Dame. I told them about our current charity, the Well Project for water supply in the Congo.

Before catching my train home from Northampton, Hilary and her husband took me to see the cemetery of the Notre Dame Sisters which had been refurbished. Each grave is marked with a

white cross. Although the cemetery is the property of Northampton Borough Council members of Notre Dame Northampton are maintaining and cleaning the cemetery and notice boards every month. I was very pleased to have had a chance to see it.

Following our day together at Northampton, Kathleen Fisher, secretary of Notre Dame Northampton, nominated Hilary Helm as the next president of the BFNDA. The Executive were pleased to receive Hilary's nomination and delighted that she has agreed to be the BFNDA President from September 2024.

I was invited to Notre Dame Southwark in May with our treasurer and past president, Bernie Shaw. The meeting and lunch were in the Notre Dame School in Southwark. Southwark is one of the last Notre Dame schools in the UK. Bernie and I were given a very warm welcome by Patricia White, their president and Diane Donovan, deputy president of the BFNDA, and we spent a lovely day with them.

I gave the same talk, and what I hoped was a humorous story, at both Notre Dame Northampton and Notre Dame Southwark, with the assumption that they were two different audiences. Apart from one person, they were. I might tell you that story another time.

I knew very little about Notre Dame Southwark and had not been there before. I consulted our fellow committee member and friend, Veronica Miles. Veronica helped me with some background information and useful tips on the content and length of my talk (keep it short). Good advice, Veronica. Thank you again.

At the AGM in September 2023 Sr Maureen gave us more information about the progress of the Well Project in the Congo. On behalf of you, our members, we were pleased to present Sr Maureen with a cheque for £5000.00 to help the Sisters with their work. I would like to thank you all, both as individuals and as Notre Dame Associations for your generous contributions. It was attended by Association presidents and past presidents who discussed topics from the last AGM. Reports were given from Manchester, Northampton, Southwark, Liverpool and Direct members. The meeting was followed by Mass and lunch. It was a very

enjoyable day and a chance to catch up with old friends.

There have been quite a few changes on the executive committee this year but all the committee now work well together as a team. Thanks to Fr Chris Thomas for continuing to be our chaplain and for hosting our meetings at the Ireneus Centre in Liverpool. We wish him well with his recovery. Thank you to Sr Maureen for representing the Sisters of Notre Dame. We greatly value our links with the Order.

It has been another difficult year. Every year brings its own difficulties but recovering from the Covid pandemic and subsequent lockdown has brought its own special challenges.

I would also like to thank the Association presidents, secretaries and treasurers for the

valuable work that they do to keep the Associations thriving.

I would like to wish them and you a happy, healthy year ahead and to ask St Julie and Notre Dame de Namur to pray for us and the future of the Federation.

Lorraine Platt
President
British Federation of Notre
Dame de Namur

<http://bfnda.org/>



Conflict in the Middle East

At this terrible time of conflict in the Middle East I came across these two prayers. I would like to share them with you. Lorraine Platt, President

Dear God,

Give us strength and know that there is
nothing more sacred than peace.

Grant us, dear God, faith, courage and wisdom.

Rabbi Karyn D.Kedar.



Prayer to Notre Dame,

Inspire leaders of nations to seek
paths of peace. May the plea for peace
rise up and touch the hearts of everyone-
so that they may lay down their weapons
and let themselves be led by the
desire for peace.



Pope Francis



Association Reports



Battersea

As there are only four active members now, and only just about four active, three of us have been members of Southwark NDA, our sister school, as well as B.O.N.D. Two of us occasionally meet up with another local 'Old Notre Damian' who attended Southwark. Maureen Coffey. As the other two members do not live nearby, a meeting for us has not been arranged for some time. At least, there is not an obituary to write for which we are all grateful! May the rest of you continue to thrive.

Mary Davey

Direct Members

As the convenor of the Direct members has changed during the course of the last year a copy of the letter sent to members by our President is published in lieu of a report.

Dear Members

Some news from the BFNDA

AGM September 2023

I am pleased to contact you, our direct members, with some of the latest news from the BFNDA. We held our annual Notre Dame Weekend Away at Hinsley Hall, Leeds in September 2023. One of the many events of the weekend was the Annual General Meeting which was held on Saturday afternoon. One of our new members has written a lovely article about the weekend. I do hope that you will enjoy reading it.

There were two items on the AGM agenda that I would like to tell you about now. Firstly, the annual fees for the direct members of the BFNDA are going to be raised to £8.00 per annum from January 2024. It is many years since the fees were increased. We have tried to absorb rising costs and expenses for the last few years. So please let me assure you that this decision has not been taken lightly. If you have any comments about this small increase please do not hesitate to contact me.

The good news, and the second item, is that the Direct Members have a new Convenor. I am delighted to tell you that the new Direct Members Convenor is Francesca Flynn. Here are her contact details:-

Francesca Flynn

62 Bower Road

Sheffield S10 1ER

Tel: 0114 268 6247

E-mail: francesca@fmflynn.plus.com

Francesca will have contacted you herself when she posted your St Julie News. Would you forward your membership fee or donations for the Notre Dame charity to Francesca please?

Lorraine Platt

Liverpool

The Liverpool group held a meeting in May in honour of St Julie. It was held at the Irenaus Centre in Waterloo. Twenty eight members attended.

As Father Chris was travelling back from Glasgow that morning, it was decided to say the Rosary at 12 and have the buffet lunch after. The Rosary was well received and we may do that again. Fr Chris arrived and said Mass at about 2 o'clock, after which, we had a cup of tea and held the draw.

In September, I and Doreen Lambert, attended the annual conference in Leeds; a very enjoyable weekend.

Only 14 members, including the committee, attended the November Mass for the deceased former pupils and Sisters of Notre Dame. Mass was said by Father Chris and was the highlight of the day. The day went well with a lovely afternoon tea being served and was much enjoyed by all.

We are trying to recruit more members and are contacting on line social groups of former pupils.

Angela Swift

Manchester

We began 2023 with our annual afternoon tea for our members. 22 people joined us at the Midland Hotel in Manchester city centre. The food was as always, very good, but this year, as there was renovation work going on we weren't given our usual room. We were seated in a more public shared area so, as an apology, the hotel reimbursed 50% of the fee. This was a very kind gesture and in turn, our members asked that the reimbursement was given to our Notre Dame charity. Our Afternoon Tea is booked for next February and will be at Annie's, owned by 'Fizz', from Coronation Street and bookings are now being taken.

Our May Mass and AGM was held at Our Lady of Grace Church in Prestwich. As our gathering was near the date of the coronation of King Charles, there was a special royal toast with Prosecco. The buffet was excellent and we were entertained with singing and games and an excellent, well supplied raffle. Our members left making sure that they had the date for our next meeting together.

A good contingent from Manchester attended our BFNDA weekend at Hinsley Hall. This was as always, a great weekend with 'Notre Dammer's', from associations throughout England. The weekend is always very successful with entertain-

ment, trips out and our wonderful conference dinner with an after dinner speaker. The weekend in 2024 is September 6th to 8th and it would be wonderful if we could encourage more people to come.

We would normally have a Mass for deceased members of our association at St Anne's church in Crumpsall, Manchester, followed by a social in the parish hall. Unfortunately we had to cancel this year as the parish priest, Father Glover, was retiring and it was uncertain if there would be a replacement priest in time for our Mass. We did try to book other churches but it was difficult to find an alternative at such short notice. We are having a Mass said for our deceased members and we hope to find a venue next year. Our Mass and AGM will continue in May at Our Lady of Grace and information will be sent out soon.

We have a wonderful committee and other members who help to organise our events. We also have a very popular facebook page with over 600 members. Thank you also for your generosity. Money had been sent from our group to the Notre Dame sisters to help water aid in Nigeria. How good is the good God.

Margaret Dolan

Northampton

The Northampton Association has continued to function with less social events and fewer members, 110 being the current membership, but we are still here!

After many years of service to the committee, Wendy Banyard has stepped down and we thank her for her service to Northampton and, also, as Conference secretary to the BFNDA.

Coincidentally, at the same committee meeting, Margaret Bradbury had a letter of resignation to give to the committee but that has been held in abeyance, at present, due to other changes that were taking place. Once again we held our AGM and Lunch in April and were delighted to meet up with 65 of our members and to welcome Lorraine Platt, BFNDA President to the lunch. The lunch was again very successful and the venue has been booked for Sunday 28th April 2024.

Hilary Helm, who has been representing the Northampton Association on the Executive Committee, was nominated as President Elect to the BFNDA and was welcomed in to that position at the 2023 AGM in Leeds. She will become President in September 2024, when Lorraine

Platt's term of office comes to an end. We congratulate Hilary and wish her well.

Following on from a request at the AGM and lunch we will be holding a Christmas Afternoon Tea and the Freemason's Hall is provisionally booked for Tuesday 5th December. Hilary Helm and Kathleen Fisher have been busy contacting a local heritage group with a view to finding safe, accessible storage for some of our memorabilia. Through the group, a home at the County Records Office has been found, where the public have access to it.

We have welcomed two new members to the committee – Cathy Chaplin and Celine Perkins and look forward to them working with us in the future.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Stephanie Drazewska, former pupil, teacher and lifelong member of the Northampton Notre Dame Association, 30th August 2023. A copy of her eulogy and some facts about her life are to be found elsewhere in the booklet.

Margaret Bradbury

Southwark

After the difficulties that we have all shared since the onset of Covid SNDA were delighted to be able to go ahead with the St Julie's Day celebrations on Sunday May 21st, and this was our first face to face get-together since our AGM in 2019!

About 40 members of the association were present and we were so pleased to be able to welcome our BFNDA President Lorraine Platt and immediate past president Bernie Shaw. We appreciated the fact that both ladies had given up their Sunday and had a long journey to be with us so thank you both – it was lovely to see you on the day. In addition, our Association chaplain Father Rudolf was with us to celebrate Mass and remain with us for the day. His support of the SNDA has been unwavering over the recent years. We were pleased also to be joined by some new faces and hope that they enjoyed their time with us.

Our guest speaker on the day was Shabna Begum from Runnymede Trust who spoke to us about the work of the organisation and her role within it. The Trust is a think tank investigating racial inequality and Shabna, who had spent many years before joining the Trust working in education, was able to explain some of the highlights of the investigative work undertaken by the Trust. Their work and research cover all aspects of life in Britain including: child poverty, equal opportunities, racial discrimination, providing evidence to challenge racial injustice. They aim to be able to influence policy decision makers at local and national level through their in-depth analysis of life as it is lived by so many.

It was an interesting and thought-provoking session which prompted several questions from the members and Shabna was thanked warmly for her time and efforts.

During the meeting SNDA members were informed of Sr. Anne-Marie Niblock's retirement and the association wished to thank Sister for her many years of hard work during her tenure as Head at Notre Dame Southwark. We had of course been made aware that Sister had suffered some recent health issues and we all wish her well in her recovery and hope that she enjoys a long and happy retirement.

The committee of SNDA will be meeting again this year to discuss future plans whilst being very mindful of the needs of our members, some of whom are not able to join us on St. Julie's Day.

Patricia White

Editor

Well, how quickly this last year has gone by. It feels like only last week that I finalised last years edition and here I am writing to you about the happenings of 2023.

It was with a huge sigh of relief that the 2022 publication was posted to you all and I was very humbled by the lovely comments I received in return. I hope you enjoy reading this years edition just as much.

I have truly enjoyed editing the various reports from the different associations. It is so lovely to hear about what your associations are doing and I hope you will all find the history of Northampton and the works being carried out in Africa very interesting.

I am grateful that some members were able to contact me with details of former pupils who are sadly no longer with us, providing, I am sure you will agree, an insight into their remarkable lives.

I would dearly love to hear from you about catch-ups you have with your Notre Dame friends whether they are small meet up's or as part of the larger gatherings organised by your regional committees. Photo's of such occasions would greatly enhance our reading and I am sure many others would be delighted to see what everyone else is up to around the country. A couple of examples are featured later in the booklet.

I would like to pose a question to you. It came from reading through some posts on the Manchester Facebook page and is:-

Did Notre Dame schools remain open during the war or were they closed and girls evacuated elsewhere?

Please, let me know what your school experiences of that time were and you may find them printed in next years St Julie News.

Kim Dearden

Web-Site

After serving the Federation for many years as the Web-Site manager Mary Lewis has stepped down from her role and is currently in the process of handing the reigns over to Diane Donovan. We would like to thank Mary for all her hard work and wish Diane success in the future up-keep of the web-site.

Lorraine Platt

BFNDA Charity 2022 to 2024

Water Purification

The African Well Project in Kitenda, Congo

Slides of the presentation given by Sr. Maureen McKnight during the Conference at Hinsley Hall, Leeds in September 2023.

KITENDA, CONGO



**WATER FOR LIFE PROJECT,
2022-2024**

An Update from our Mission Office:

***YOU* are essential!**

Every time you extend your hand to help, to give a gift or to support the work of another through a gift, you change at least one life.

Every prayer, thought and gift given by you for another has an impact in life.

For hundreds of women, children and families in the Democratic Republic of Congo,

***YOU* are essential!**

Water, the gift of life...

...collecting water from the pump



How the Federation has helped...

Your goodness provides the people with the life-sustaining gift of water.

Over these past 2 years, you have trekked with us through the lush green forest and dry riverbeds in the heat of the day in the Congo and you definitely have changed life!

Kitenda, in Congo is deep in the forest, and is home to 3000 villagers scattered in the area surrounding the compound which houses: the school of 1000 + students, the convent, Church, Maternity hospital and clinic



Life, with the help of water!

The goodness of God is revealed...

To the members of the Federation...

You are our far-away family who can help our sisters and this community in need.

This pump, a very expensive pump, will push the water up hills and around corners through many metres of pipe to flow freely into the cups, bowls, buckets at the end of the community taps available to the community.

I thank God for your prayers, presence and precious support.

With a very grateful heart
Sister Leonore Coan SND
Director of Mission Support

The pump leads to these taps in Kitenda!

Water for everyone!



A similar project to build a well in
PELENDE, CONGO



How Good God is!

The Photovoltaic Water process courtesy of
Sr Victorine Mansanga, Provincial of the Congo-Kinshasa Province.

Water falls with force to the ground. This
water is collected through the use of the
pipes that take it to a well. Water is pumped
from the well to the Convent and is collected
in the green container.



The PHOTOVOLTAIC power source
installation that is used to pump water from
the well to the taps in the area at KITENDA.



How the water is shared with the people in the area.

Our Sisters in Nigeria and Congo



Kenyan Province with some CLT sisters (and some sisters working there from other units).

The Congo Gathering

The CLT members at front are Sister Lorraine Connell, on left and Sister Mary Johnson, (white hair) on the right. Mary is our Congregation Leader (formerly called 'Mother General' or 'Ma Mere'!) N.B. Lorraine is the Sister who initiated the Water/Photovoltaic Project across the Congregation. This is the charity the Federation is currently supporting in Congo-Kinshasa Province



Silver Jubilarians cutting their cake.



"les nouvelles professes" - newly professed Sisters (with Sr Victorine Mansanga, ** Provincial)



Congo – Kinshasa SNDS



Final Vow Sisters - (Nigeria)

**** indicates Sisters from Nigeria, (2) and Congo, (Victorine) who studied at Hope University in Liverpool and lived with the Sisters in Childwall, Liverpool.**

<https://sddengw.org/category/african-photovoltaic-project/>

Conference Secretary Report

This year's Conference took place at Hinsley Hall in Leeds from the 1st to the 3rd of September. I was delighted to be able to welcome members of Liverpool, Manchester, Northampton and Southwark Notre Dame Associations and some of our Direct Members. Unfortunately due to Rail Strike, sudden illness and injury there were some last minute cancellations and we very much missed the company of those members. (You know who you are.) It was great to meet ladies who had never attended Conference before and some who had been absent for a while.

Numbers are still lower than pre-pandemic times but what we lacked in numbers on Friday evening we made up for in enthusiasm as we joined in with Lorraine's exercise class before dinner and with some lively parlour games in the lounge after a lovely meal.

On Saturday, some of us went by coach to the Piece Hall in Halifax, while some ladies chose to remain at Hinsley Hall for a relaxing morning in the September sunshine. The trip gave us the opportunity to visit this last remaining Georgian Piece Hall, a testament to the importance of hand woven textiles in pre - industrial times, and indulge in a little bit of retail therapy or just enjoy a coffee and a chat.

On our return to Hinsley Hall we met the ladies who were joining us for the AGM and the rest of the week-end and had lunch. Our Direct Members held their own meeting before we all gathered for our AGM.

Prior to the official meeting Sr Maureen McKnight SND gave us a short presentation about the difference our contribution is making to the project to provide clean drinking water to the community served by the Sisters in Congo. Despite technical difficulties with the laptop and screen she explained how the money sent by us after last years conference was already making a huge difference to the lives of the Sisters and the people they work with. After her talk she was presented with a

cheque for £5000 from the Federation to continue this vital work.

The AGM over, we went to the Chapel for Evening Prayer which had been prepared by Sr Maureen. A few calm and relaxing minutes to reflect. It was now time to get ready for our evening.

Conference Dinner began when we gathered for pre - dinner Prosecco and the first sighting of our After Dinner Speaker; Stanley Accrington, a Songwriter and Performer who arrived, proudly wearing a Notre Dame Manchester tie and scarf, borrowed from his wife. After our meal and our usual Toasts, Stanley talked about "Change" incorporating a couple of his songs and giving us all plenty to laugh about. Dinner over we returned to the lounge for Quiz Results with tie breakers.

Sunday Morning we gathered outside for our traditional Conference Photo on the steps, after which we went inside to draw the raffle. The generosity of our members in buying raffle tickets, tombola tickets and supporting Bernie's stall or buying Notre Dame cushions got our fundraising off to a good start. Thank you.

We were all very pleased to see an injured Fr Chris arrive. He had asked a friend to bring him over from Liverpool so that he could say Mass for us.

Following Mass we came together for our final meal. After a couple of "Thank You's" this years conference was over and people began to make their journey home. It had been a busy weekend, but there is something special about spending time with Notre Dame people that makes me feel refreshed. Thank you all for your company and I hope to see you next year.

Catherine Orford

Conference Member Review

This was my first BFNDA Conference – I'd hesitated in the past as it sounded rather ...dry!

Far from it.

There was a warm welcome on arrival and after unpacking we gathered in the lounge and I started getting to know the other Notre Dame members. I knew some by sight from our Manchester Masses and I soon

got to know everyone else. Before dinner on Friday evening, Lorraine held a Pilates class – another first, for me anyway. It was a fitness session of gentle exercise with relaxing music.

After a short break we met in the bar and went into dinner. This was followed by entertainment in the Lounge, including Play your Cards Right, Stand-up Bingo, a picture quiz and later a music quiz.

On Saturday morning a number of us visited The Piece Hall in Halifax, the last remaining Georgian cloth hall in the world. It was a beautiful morning and The Piece Hall is full of small independent businesses, shops, cafes and bars. After lunch came the 'dry' part of the weekend, except it wasn't. Yes, it dealt with reporting and the financial aspect of the Federation but also an interesting and informative update from Sr Maureen McKnight SND on the charity that BFNDA is currently supporting – The African Well Project in Kitenda, Congo. Sr. Maureen is the representative of the Provincial Team of the Notre Dame Order.

Saturday evening began with a pre-dinner drinks reception in the bar followed by an excellent Conference dinner with a very amusing after-dinner speaker, Stanley Accrington. His funny stories and songs were very entertaining. Toasts were raised to the Sisters of Notre Dame, the President and Past Presidents of the BFNDA and HM The King. Veronica Miles asked us to remember our school friends and teachers who could not be with us, and raised the toast to Absent Friends.

We had coffee and another glass or two of wine in the lounge and the answers to a fiendish 3-part quiz, which we'd all been puzzling over since we arrived. There was music and dancing, chatting, chocolates and plenty of laughter.

Sunday morning started with breakfast, a group photo outside and then the raffle – no Catholic function is complete without a raffle and the proceeds were being donated to the charity. Each Association had donated a cash prize for the raffle.

Fr Chris Thomas arrived, with his driver, on Sunday morning to say Mass in the chapel. He was greeted by a round of applause from the members who were so pleased to see him following his recent surgery.

Mass was followed by a lovely Sunday lunch and some sad farewells.

I'd arrived recognising a few faces from Manchester and felt I left with 20+ new friends

Marie Gallagher

(ND Manchester 1971-78)

Date for your Diaries

Notre Dame Weekend

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th September 2024

Hinsley Hall, Leeds

Gala Dinner on Saturday Evening

A chance to catch up with friends old and new.

BNFDA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

ACCOUNT 2022-2023

General Account/Charity

Income

£ 5,585.58

Capitation *	£1,215.00
Direct members	£ 138.00
Charity	£3,192.00
Conference column	£6,936.60

£11,481.60

Expenditure

Exec travel	£ 165.48
Postage/telephone	£ 72.74
Miscellaneous	£ 334.00
Irenaeus	£ 625.00
Website fees	£ 166.00
Bank Search Fees	£ 15.00
Refund *	£ 183.00
St Julie News	£ 340.00
Donation to charity	£ 3,000.00
Conference	£ 6,938.50

-£11,774.38

£5,393.80

Excess of Income over Expenditure

-£292.78

Bank Reconciliation

Opening balance 1.4.22	£ 5,585.58
Total income	£11,481.60
Total expenditure	-£11,774.38
Closing Balance 31.3.23	£ 5,393.80

* Liverpool Capitation Overpaid

CONFERENCE ACCOUNT

Income

HSBC Opening Balance 1.4.22	£ 693.64	
Delegates fees	£6,846.60	
Cash	£ 40.00	
Donation	£ 50.00	£7,630.24

Expenditure

Coach	£ 345.00	
Coach Driver Gratuity	£ 20.00	
Hinsley Hall	£ 6,010.50	
Speaker	£ 50.00	
Chaplain Fr Chris Thomas	£ 100.00	
HH Staff Gratuity	£ 130.00	
Raffle Northampton	£ 20.00	
Refunds for Sunday Night	£ 183.00	
Miscellaneous	£ 80.00	-£6,938.50

Excess of Income over Expenditure **-£1.93**

Cash Book Balance **£ 691.74**

"Let us go on from day to day
leaving the next day in the
hands of the good God."
St. Julie Billiart

Charity - THE AFRICAN WELL PROJECT KITENDA, CONGO

Opening Balance 1.4.22		£3,629.99
Conference Account	£1,000.00	
Direct members	£ 246.00	
Liverpool	£ 300.00	
Manchester	£ 980.00	
Northampton	£1,000.00	
Southwark	£ 550.00	£3,192.00
Donation to Charity	£3,000.00	
Closing Balance 31.3.23		£3,821.99

CAPITATION

Association	Capitation paid	No. of members	
	2022-23	2021/22	2022/23
Direct members	£ 69.00	50	23
Liverpool	£ 183.00	61	61
Manchester	£ 231.00	70	77
Northampton	£ 384.00	141	128
Southwark	£ 234.00	78	78
	<u>£1,101.00</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>367</u>

This meeting took a rather different format to the usual meeting structure; there were no apologies, minutes or matters arising on the agenda. However, from the minutes of the previous (February) meeting I noticed that I was listed among the “Non-Voting Attendees” I made enquiries about this and was told that this was because we had not paid our subscription. Apparently, the invoice had been sent to Louise Enderby. I informed the Treasurer, Barbara Cookson that we were two treasurers on from Louise and gave her Bernie Shaw’s contact details, so things should be sorted out soon. I have spoken to Bernie about this.

After a warm welcome from the President, Amy Cameron there was a series of talks by women with various roles within the Church:

Anita Motha (CEO of Million Minutes the Catholic Youth Agency) spoke of the importance of listening to the voices of young people and how there was still a great deal of work to do. She mentioned an incident of racial discrimination at an Indian embassy which remarkably improved when she produced her British passport. She said that attending Mass helped her to feel connected.

Marie Southall (Director of Partnerships and Public Affairs – Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales) has conducted twenty-one interviews with women in senior paid roles within the Church. All reported positive and negative experiences with barriers both real and perceived. There was discrimination and low pay and there were poor institutional structures and HR procedures. Abbot Hugh struck a more positive note by mentioning Pope Francis’s appointment of women.

The next two speaker were younger women from the Coalition for Global Prosperity who had had very different faith journeys:

Leila Bousbaa (Head of Trips and Events) described her upbringing in a mixed marriage and how her faith sustained her.

Amy Gander (Head of Operations & Evaluation) had a much more traditional Catholic upbringing, but

found herself alone among her peer group in being married in her twenties and hoping for a family. She was also the only one of her class who still regularly attends Mass.

Abigail McMillan (Head of Legacy Fundraising CAFOD) spoke of her struggles with impostor syndrome. She said she found real joy in the Church.

All the speakers mentioned some form of discrimination or unconscious bias. Nonetheless, they all felt that their experiences within the Church were largely positive.

There was then some input from Amy Cameron about how to take the NBCW forward. The current aims of the NBCW as stated in the Constitution are:

“The NBCW actively seeks to promote the presence, participation and responsibilities of Catholic women in the Church and in society in order to enable them to fulfil their evangelical mission and to work for the Common Good.”

There was a proposal to change this to:

“We exist to celebrate and support the brilliance of Catholic Women”

A further proposal was to change the name of the NBCW to the National Body of Catholic Women.

The meeting was running quite late and I was unable to stay for the discussion.

Diane Donovan

<https://www.nbcw.co.uk/>

****Update from the Meeting of NBCW 19th October****

A suggestion that the name of the NBCW should be changed was not approved.

There was some discussion about increasing the diversity of the NBCW and that the Board should actively seek (perhaps through marketing) to recruit more members from younger, non-white people.



Irenaeus Project



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE IRENAEUS CENTRE

The Irenaeus project began in 2002 when Archbishop Patrick Kelly released me from parish work. The only thing I knew at the time was that I felt called to help people pray and explore the Scriptures in a different way than I had before. So, the Irenaeus project was born.

You know the story of our desire for a centre. After many years of hoping and praying we finally opened a centre a year ago. The development of the Centre has enabled us to continue to offer short courses on methods of Prayer and the Scriptures and host renewal events. During the liturgical seasons of the year, we have offered evenings and days of Prayer and retreats of various sorts.

The Centre has helped us to continue to provide opportunities for spiritual accompaniment for anyone requiring it on a regular or ad hoc basis. This year we have spread our 'Come and See' conference over twelve months, a day each month with well-known speakers coming to comfort and challenge and we haven't had to leave home to do it.

What about our outreach? I have to say it's success has even surprised me! For several years we have run a dementia choir under the auspices of Sr Moira Meeghan, but now with the help of Sr Siobhan O'Keefe we also offer a service for carers to give them a safe place to come and share their needs. Siobhan also leads a small bereavement support meeting.

We are very aware that spirituality is about the whole person and so we offer, with the help of Liz, one of our volunteers, what we call movement for healing, gentle exercises that help those who struggle with mobility in any way, with or without dementia.

Our drop in has welcomed those with mental health issues alongside people who simply want warmth and conversation. Some people come and

just pick up a book and read for a while. Others come and visit our bookshop. New books are costly, but we have lots on sale and our second-hand range is proving very popular too!

Our immediate concern was to open a food cupboard for those in most need. The food cupboard has provided us with heart-breaking stories of people who are at the end of their tether, some of them ashamed to come and ask. For those people our volunteers are essential to make them feel comfortable and at ease.

We always hoped that the Irenaeus Centre would provide a safe haven for vulnerable people and in the short time it has been open, it's begun to do so.

We have a knit and natter group which gathers people and gives them space to tell their stories. That finishes at 12 noon on a Tuesday and is immediately followed by a Godly play session led by Francesca who animates the knit and natter group.

We are lucky to be gifted with a local artist, Maureen, who each week gives of her talents as she leads a paint and meditation session.

Each Monday we have a time in front of the Blessed Sacrament when people who need healing can come and be prayed with. So if you're planning a visit to Liverpool, why not come along and visit us? You would be most welcome!

Fr Chris

<https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/>



Enjoyment at the knit and natter group.

Come and Celebrate Life

All Welcome

**Saturday
9th September
12noon**

Mass and BBQ
at
The Irenaeus Project
Great Georges Road, Waterloo, L22 1RD

Bring the children


Celebrate Life.

To book please contact Jenny
Tel: 0151 949 1199 or jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

irenaeus.co.uk
32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 1RD

Prayer for Healing

Starting Monday 11th September
2:00pm-3:00pm
at
The Irenaeus Project
Great Georges Road,
Waterloo, L22 1RD



**GRATITUDE
AND BLESSINGS
IN SCRIPTURE**

Thursday mornings
10:30 am – 12 noon
14th, 21st, 28th Sept & 5th Oct '23

At the Irenaeus Centre
Great Georges Rd.,
Waterloo,
Liverpool.
L22 1RD

(Zoom links available)

To book email
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk
or phone 0151 949 1199



An invitation to a
Macmillan coffee morning
on Friday 29 September 2023
from 11am until 1pm
at the Irenaeus Centre



irenaeus.co.uk
32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 1RD

**STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS
OF THE ONES
WHO'VE GONE BEFORE US!**



WOMEN'S WEEKEND
22nd September – 24th September 2023
(Limited Residential places available)

At the Irenaeus Centre
Great Georges Rd. Liverpool
L22 1 RD

For more information contact
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk
Or Tel: 0151 9491199

**THE SHAPING
OF THINGS
TO COME**

7pm – 8:30pm
at the Irenaeus Centre
Tuesdays 7- 8.30pm
5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
September 2023

Reflecting on the life
and ministry of our
parishes in the future



**The Handcrafted
Bible Exhibition**

at the
Irenaeus Project
Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 1RD

Monday 2nd October – Thursday 5th October 2023

(Exhibition will be available to those attending
Come and See on 7th October)

All Welcome

10am-4pm
Refreshments available

Not to be missed

For more information contact:
jenny@irenaeus.co.uk
Tel 0151 949 1199



Some of the posters advertising the various activities available at the Irenaeus Project.

Notre Dame, Northampton

By Robert Vaughan, with assistance from Hilary Helm and Kathleen Fisher, former pupils and members of Notre Dame Association.

Certainly not as glamorous as the Paris Notre Dame, but Northampton folk have come to realise and sadly miss what we once had.

This is how it once looked in Abington Street.



Certainly somewhat imposing and austere rather than frivolous, but, nevertheless, it had impact and style unlike the replacement – brutal 1970s.



This was a Catholic convent with a girl's school and had been there since 1870. This is the story of how it came about.

The story commences with Marie Rose Julie Billiard, born in 1751 at Cuvilly, an obscure village in Picardy. Her parents were virtuous people and this distinguished Julie, who from an early age, led a life of piety and dedication to teach the Catechism to fellow pupils.



The French Revolution, the reign of terror, from 1793 to 1794 had a terrible impact on Julie and it affected her health but cemented her dedication to God. Once recovered she undertook a number of apostolic trips and also in 1794

met Françoise Blin de Bourdon which was the start of an indestructible friendship. They attracted a group of young girls anxious for their teachings but this group dissolved although the local Father Varin asked them to dedicate their lives to Christian instruction of young poor girls.

In 1804 Julie Billiard with Françoise de Bourdon and Catherine Duchatel formally vowed and committed themselves to God and thus was formed the Sisters of Notre Dame in Amiens where they were now based.

Conflict arose, partly it would seem from maybe jealousy and partly from insular behaviour but, the Bishop of Amiens did not share the vision of missions to take their venture out to the wider countryside, instead he wanted it constrained within the diocese. In the end, the Bishop decided to take back the "house" at Amiens but he told Julie she was free to choose to go elsewhere. This was his big mistake as she promptly seized the opportunity and went off to Namur with nearly all the other Sisters following to set up Sisters Of Notre dame de Namur, Belgium (then part of Napoleon's empire).

Julie Billiard passed away in 1816 and was beatified in 1906 and then Pope Paul VI canonized her as St. Julie Billiard in 1969

After many pages we could arrive at this point when the Mother House at Namur is still the centre for a world-wide community dedicated to Catholic education and religious instruction.

The establishment at Northampton has its own



interesting history.

It was through the Redemptorists that the Sisters of Notre Dame first came to England. Father de Buggenoms, a Belgian and superior of a small mission at Falmouth, felt the urgent need of schools for poor, Catholic children. He asked and obtained from the

Superior of the Sisters of Notre Dame at Namur a community of six sisters, and with these he opened a small school at Penryn in Cornwall. It continued only three years, however, as the place afforded no means of subsistence for a religious house. The Redemptorists having established a second English mission at Clapham, near London, and having asked again for Sisters of Notre Dame for a school, the community of Penryn was transferred there in 1848.

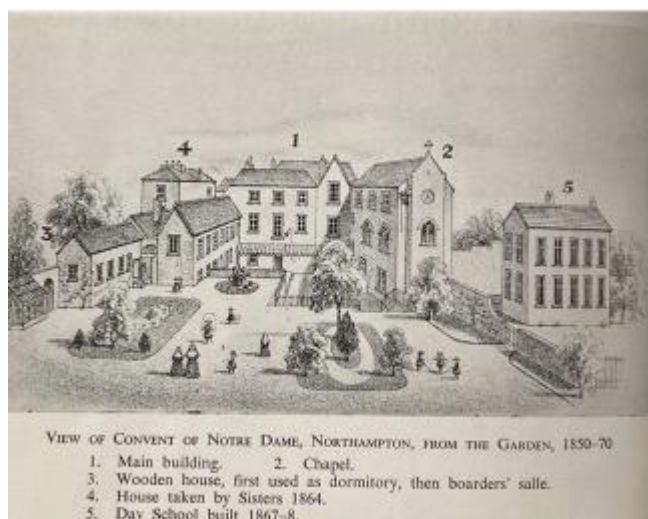
In 1845 two Frenchwomen Sisters of the recently formed "Congregation of the Infant Jesus" arrived in Northampton at the invitation of Doctor Wareing, the Vicar Apostolic and later the first Bishop of Northampton. A niece of the Dr Wareing joined them to set up in a house in Sheep Street. They had an ambitious programme.

To undertake educational work and organize various schools, a day school for the poor, evening classes for young working girls, a day school for girls intending to be governesses and village school mistresses and a boarding school for young ladies as well as a Sunday School.

In those days, Northampton was a small town but expanded rapidly with mechanisation of the footwear industry.

Success caused them to move to a former church and then again in 1850 to the site in Abington Street.

The original convent 1850 to 1870



The move was followed by disaster as 4 Nuns die of Typhus and thus was formed the nun's cemetery.

By 1846 the congregation had formally separated from the Mother House (not known why) but was in danger of extinction. But backed by the Bishop, the Sisters of the Infant Jesus joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Namur and this was formally completed in 1852.

There is a complete list of boarders from 1846 to 1930 and this shows the fees for two sisters who attended in 1882

for pension, music, singing German	£50. 0. 0.
for washing	4. 0. 0.
for meat ('for Violet')	3. 7. 0.
for stationery	3.15. 0.
for vacations	6. 0. 0.
	£67. 2. 0.
per annum, payable per half year	

The rules for the boarders were quite strict.

"Attention to be paid not to place the elbows on the chairs, or the feet on the rails of the chairs; care should also be taken not to knock the wall when turning the chairs."

"The windows (in the dormitory) may not be opened till all are entirely dressed."

"Great care must be taken never to leave pins in soiled linen . . ."

"During recreation pulling each other about, screaming or any sort of roughness is never allowed."

Other rules seem rather arbitrary:

"The pupils are forbidden to speak to Sisters who are not their mistresses without a special permission from the first mistress."

"It is particularly forbidden to be twice together on the same day or frequently with the same companions in recreation . . ."

— and others are quite frightening:

"Upon entering the Dormitory one should reflect on the meaning of the word 'Dormium' or resting place, sleep being an image of death . . ."

Originally all conversation at recreation had to be in French, but later this would be adapted so that on certain days French only was permitted and offenders had to pay a forfeit or fine. A list of fines in the 1858 Rules give an interesting insight into changed attitudes.

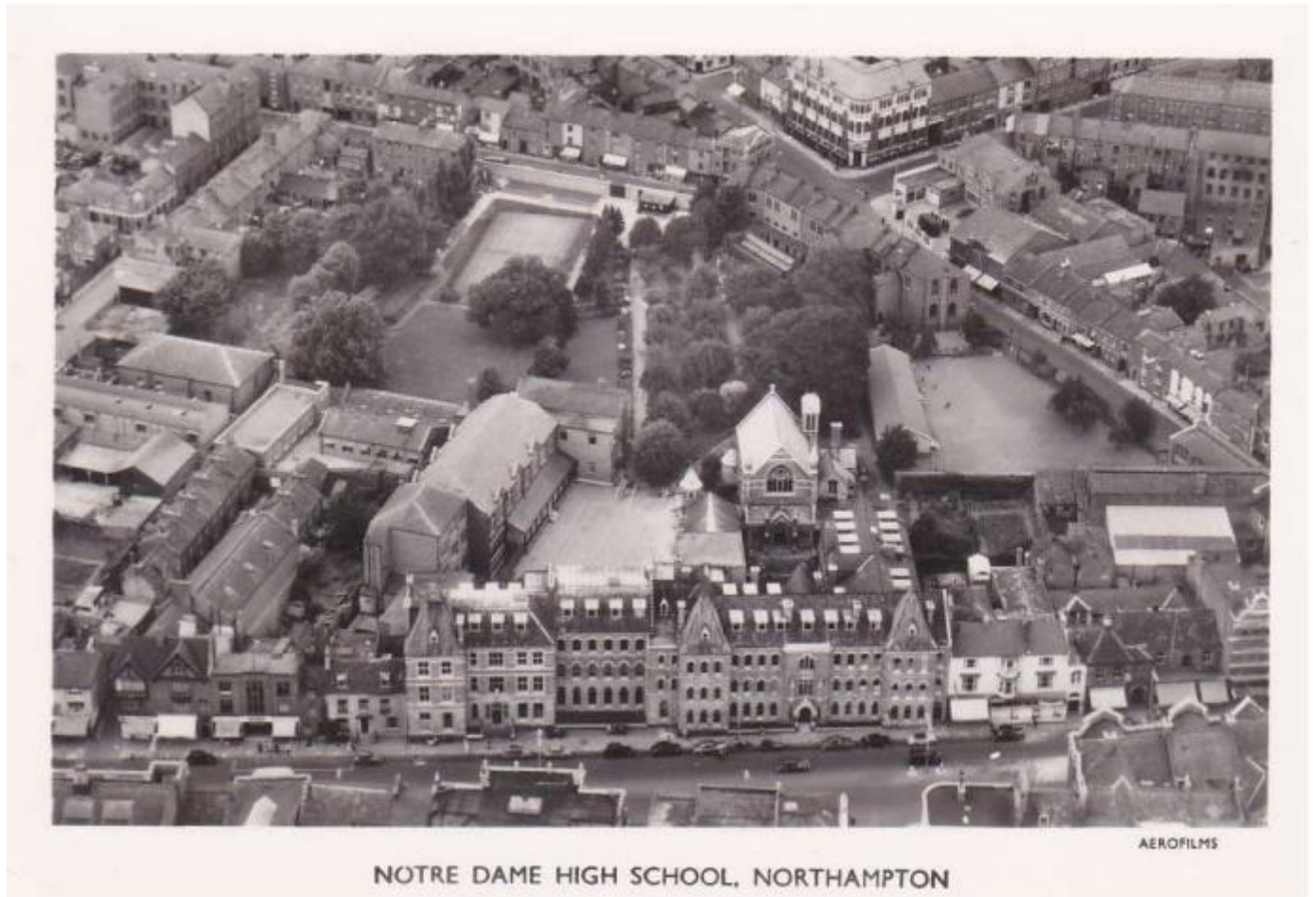
Success continued and new premises were built

The new Convent in 1870



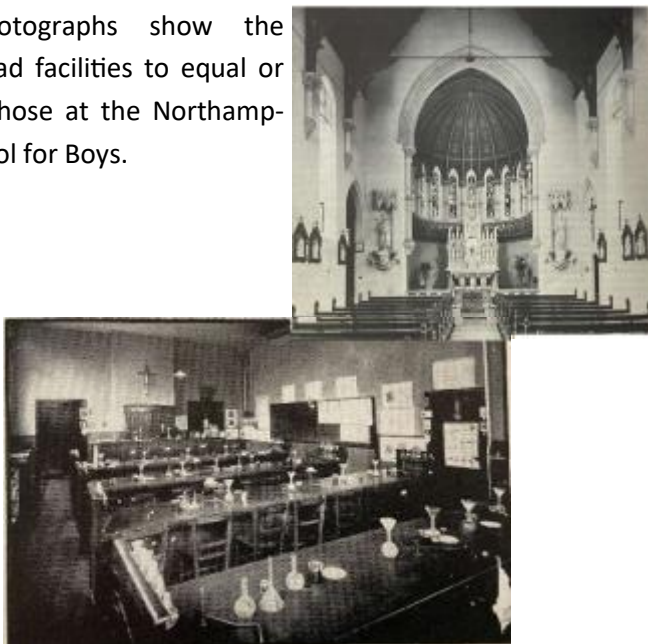
This was expanded at various times and with a science block in 1950 to what is shown in the first photograph.

This aerial photograph shows the extent of the site.



The premises were in two strictly divided parts, namely the school and the convent and school girls did not cross the divide. Being a girls school, it was also a divide which boys did not cross, yet whilst studying English Lit at O-level, my class attend a performance there of The Merchant Of Venice.

The photographs show the school had facilities to equal or exceed those at the Northampton School for Boys.



There are also personal memories of the school.



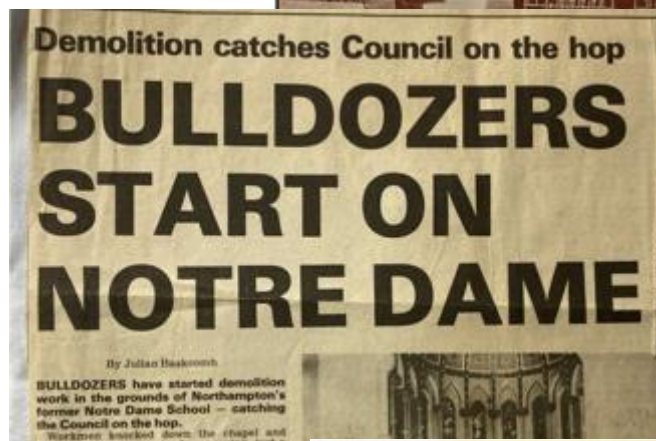
THE SCHOOL COUNCIL 1974-5.



time-tables:-

WEEKDAY		SATURDAY	
6 a.m.	RISE	8.30 a.m.	RISE
7 a.m.	MASS		BREAKFAST
7.45 p.m.	BREAKFAST	9.30 a.m.	RECREATION
9 a.m.	RECOMMENDATIONS		LITANY AND HYMN
10 a.m.	COMPOSITIONS		THE GARDEN IF P
11.30 a.m.	RECREATION	10 a.m.	CLASS
12 p.m.	DINNER AND RECREATION	11 a.m.	NEEDLEWORK
		12 p.m.	DINNER AND RECREATION
2 p.m.	WALK	2 p.m.	NEEDLEWORK AND
3.30 p.m.	RECREATION	3 p.m.	SINGING
4 p.m.	GOUTER	3.30 p.m.	DRILL
5 p.m.	RECREATION	4 p.m.	GOUTER
7 p.m.	SUPPER	5 p.m.	CHAPEL
8 p.m.	RETIRE	5.30 p.m.	CLASS
		7 p.m.	SUPPER
		8 p.m.	RETIRE

The modernisation of the education system left Notre Dame somewhat out on a limb with no pathway available for a complete Catholic education for girls. In 1975 it closed, and then four years later it was demol-



ished. Seemingly little was salvaged.

The Chapel crucifix went to nearby St Gregory's. Hilary does however have a replica. The Notre Dame Association continued and they have saved the artifacts that have assisted this story and most have now been deposited for posterity at Northampton Records Office.



What does remain on site is the Nun's cemetery which holds 88 sisters and is still kept tidy by the School Association.



RIP

2022 - 2023

Direct Members

Margaret Smart

Southwark

Angela Parsliffe

Manchester

Brenda Park (Miss Philpot)

Joyce Bradley née Oliver

Helen Melia

Shelaigh O'Neil

Irene Yates

Olive Cartney

Rebecca Brooke

Northampton

Monsignor Tony Mc Dermott, Chaplain to the Association

Joan Ormondroyd nee Westley, mother of Liz

Rita Mortimer nee Eales, mother of Anne

Dorothy Shakeshaft nee Ward known as Joan

Joy Hargrave nee Slow

Stephanie Drazewska, pupil, teacher and lifelong member NNDA

Brian Stevens, History teacher at NND High School

Sisters of Notre Dame

Sr Stella Butler aged 93 from Birkdale

Sr Marie Cecilia Chambers aged 92 Childwall

Sr Anne Marie McGinley aged 93 Childwall

Sr Anthony (Sheila) Wilson aged 99 Childwall

Sr Kathleen (Elizabeth) Bishop aged 84 Birkdale



Eternal rest grant unto them, O
Lord and let perpetual light shine
upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen

Cricket-loving French teacher and adviser on educational policy

Dr Margaret Smart, 85

Dr Margaret Smart's profound Roman Catholic faith, affection for nuns, compassion for the disadvantaged and, not least, "uniform" of high-necked blouses, tight bun and pearls may have led the casual observer to assume she had a religious vocation. Yet it was a path in education that Margaret chose, and for 15 years she taught French in Catholic secondary schools and colleges of higher education.

A natural authority and fine sense of organisation took her into the upper tiers of educational management. In 1975 she was appointed one of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools for modern languages and teacher training and in 1992, when Ofsted took over, left with the title of chief inspector for higher education. In retirement she was the natural choice as a member of the Bishops' Conference committee for higher education. A year later Cardinal Basil Hume asked her to serve on the Diocese of Westminster Education Service and she went on to be director of the Catholic Education Service (CES).

Margaret was not a newcomer to writing — she had in her teaching career co-authored five textbooks on French — and in 1997 she published *The Common Good in Education*, a work that applied the principles of Catholic social teaching to education. The book marked a high point for the CES, reflecting the unanimity of the Bishops' Conference on educational policy, and reached an audience beyond the Catholic Church. The CES was mentioned in the House of Lords when the new Labour government under Tony Blair was introducing the 1998 Education Act.

A year later Margaret wrote *Education*

for Love, the result of extensive consultation with parents, teachers, governors, priests and others to encourage teachers in their understanding of the Church's moral principles. In 1998 she was awarded an honorary doctorate of law by the University of Birmingham and a year later was appointed OBE. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI made her a Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great.

Margaret Lord was born in 1937 in Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester. Her father, Richard, was a manager for British Rail and her mother, Winifred (née Elwood), was a housewife. Both her parents came from Lancastrian Catholic families and Margaret and her older sister Freda were educated at the Ursuline convent in Kettering, and at the Notre Dame convent, Northampton.

Margaret went to Leicester University to study French and in 1969 was awarded a master's in education by the University of Birmingham. In her teenage years she had worked at the City of the Poor in Lourdes, and during the summer holidays she helped to organise camps for disadvantaged Catholic children in the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Until her late thirties Margaret lived with her parents but on a teaching course in Paris she met a French graduate, Richard Smart, six years her junior, who became the headmaster of Hampton School in southwest London. They married in 1976; Richard predeceased her in 1993.

Thereafter Margaret concentrated on the CES and the Westminster education service, as well as being a governor of a college of higher education in



Margaret Smart was a school inspector

Birmingham, and of Mayfield School in East Sussex.

If Margaret was devout, she was also good company, smoking cigarettes in her earlier years and happy to raise a glass or two of wine, gin or champagne. There were no children — just two doted-upon golden labradors — but she was delighted to entertain nephews and nieces, making use of her teaching skills with, for example, a homemade orchestra of upturned washing-up bottles and glasses of water. She loved sport, particularly cricket, rugby and football. Phone calls were ignored when the cricket was on. For her seventieth birthday she was treated to an international at Lord's.

the times | Saturday January 7 2023

Angela Parsliffe

Angela was a constant presence throughout my time at Southwark in the first part of the 1960s. I could say that she was inspirational and provoked an interest in her subject and all of this would be true, however I want to acknowledge how influential she proved to be into my adult years.

At that time the school's charity was the Sue Ryder Foundation, the charity shops are a familiar sight on many high streets today. The Foundation is known for its work around mental health and neurological conditions. Back in the 1960s it was a very different story. Sue Ryder and her husband, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, had opened their Suffolk home to provide refuge for concentration camp survivors. While there were some paid staff, there were also volunteers on hand to provide additional support and assistance.

I really have no idea how this happened but somehow, my friend, Anne King and I volunteered to spend a week at Cavendish. We lived in different parts of South London, several hundred miles away from Suffolk. And again I have no idea how or why this happened either, Angela drove from her home in Essex and took us to Cavendish and then returned a week later to take us home. Each trip must have taken five hours. I was probably too young to appreciate it at the time but now I look back on her kindness and commitment.

The time spent at Cavendish wasn't easy for anyone but particularly for young teenagers. The men were broken and damaged, they wore their terrible experiences on their faces and in every part of their bodies, but they spent the last years of their lives in a caring and warm environment and with dignity.

Now there was no light bulb moment but that experience sat with me for some time and it was no surprise that a few years later I embarked on a career in social care and some 53 years later I am still at it.

After I left school, life and my career took over and I had no contact with Notre Dame until early 2000s. Early social media enabled me to reconnect with some of my school chums. The added bonus was that they were part of SNDA and that St Julie's Day was planned for a few weeks after. I was so excited to be returning to school which was largely unchanged. By chance one of the first people that I met was Angela and along with Kathy Robinson and Paula Watson,

they encouraged me to engage with SNDA, they were friendly, approachable and fun to be with. There were committee meetings, quiz nights, meals out, theatre trips and St Julie Days galore. I was able to remind Angela of the trip to Cavendish and how I held her responsible in no small part for my career choice.



Angela retired from the Southwark Association Committee in 2016.

Then of course the pandemic happened and life changed for everyone. I hadn't seen or spoken to her for a while and I had heard that along with mobility issues Angela hadn't fared very well. I decided to contact her and we set up a little email exchange last year. We were able to natter about all sorts and I reminded her of her kindness in taking Anne and I to Suffolk and that I regarded that opportunity as the time that my future career was hatched.

I was so sorry when there was news of her stroke but was heartened to hear that that despite it all, she retained some of her spark and I hoped for the best. It was a terrible blow when I found out that she had died.

After the news of her death I returned to our little email exchange. Her last words to me were – "I remember you with great affection."

Angela I couldn't put it better myself.

Sue Joyce
March 2023

Stephanie Drazewska

She was born on the 6th November 1931 at home in Limehouse, London to Polish parents Stephan and Wanda. Stephanie was the middle of five sisters, Wanda, Marie, Helen and Angela. At the start of World War 2, when Stephanie was 8, she, her mother and sisters moved to Northampton as they already had Polish friends living here. Her father carried on working in London to support his family.

Steph attended Notre Dame Preparatory and High School. She was Head Girl for a year and became Captain of Netball and Tennis Team. It was there she decided she would like to go into teaching. She attended both Our Lady's Mount Pleasant Teachers Training College in Liverpool and also Homerton Teacher Training College in Cambridge. She qualified in both Physical Education and Human Biology.

As a qualified teacher she returned to Notre Dame School in Northampton. She taught there for 22 years until it closed. She rose to position of Head of Physical Education Department. She then spent the next 11 years teaching at Thomas Becket Upper School, but retired early to care for her mother who was suffering with Alzheimer's. After her mother passed away she spent a very enjoyable three years teaching Swimming and Tennis at Falcon Manor Private Boarding School in Greens Norton. Finally she finished her teaching with a stint of supply teaching mainly at Lings Upper School into her 70s.



Steph had a number of sporting achievements. She played netball for Northants, Lancashire and Cambridgeshire. She also once played for Northants against Australia. Steph loved Amateur Dramatics starred in a number of productions in her younger days.

She was a qualified life saving instructor, a qualified Lawn Tennis Association Coach, she had a qualification in massage and chiropody!

Steph was always very generous with her time. She volunteered at Nazareth House on a Sunday and after Mass would man the reception for the day.

Taken from the Eulogy read by Richard Squires (Stephanie's nephew)

We are gathered here today to pay respect and celebrate the life of a remarkable and inspirational lady, Stephanie Drazewska or Stephanie Stevens as some of you may know her as a pupil at Notre Dame

I must have known Stephanie for 60 years although not so well as a daughter, sister or aunt would but I do remember she was always caring for someone or concerned for the health of family, friends or a neighbour, invariably putting their welfare before her own. This continued throughout her life

I first knew Stephanie as our PE teacher at the Notre Dame. She was a formidable lady striding through the school, she was known for being quite strict but fair and more importantly approachable.

She used to take us to the Racecourse last period on a Friday afternoon to play hockey. When she blew her whistle at the end of the lesson we would all dash to get changed in a rush to get home often putting those horrible serge dresses over our games kit, then run for the service bus. You would easily recognise the bus taking the 'hockey girls' back into town all the windows were completely steamed, think it fair to say after playing hockey we would 'glow'

Stephanie would love to attend the Old Girl's events, summer teas, Christmas gatherings especially the AGM and lunch. Her smile would light up the room as former pupils came to greet her, she remembered so many of them by name and if they played hockey or tennis. She devoted her life to serving others especially "her girls" as she called us. She didn't have the slightest idea how much love and respect they had for her.

She would often say when she awoke each morning she felt the luckiest person on earth that her Good God had surrounded her with so many wonderful people. Her faith always played a very big part in her life.

She is at peace now, free of pain, sadly missed by us all. I think we can all say our lives are the richer for having known Stephanie Drazewska.

Eulogy written and read by Diane Phillips NNDA

Member News

Battersea



Pat Nichols, Maria Truch, Ann Selwood, Brenda Mist, Rosa Pellegrinelli, as was, met up in London in November, all pushing 80! We left school 1960, 1962. Not a bad looking bunch! Next time we hope more will join us.

"I can see that the good God is showering graces and blessings on you. May God fill your days with blessings; may their measure overflow in great abundance."

St. Julie Billiart

Manchester



The Plains. Hopefully next years gathering will include the 'A's and the Alpha's.

A Celebration of 50 years since their first day at Notre Dame High School. With lots of stories to tell, they travelled from all over the UK to meet up and enjoyed a wonderful Indian meal at a restaurant before heading to the home of event host, Jo McGuire, to continue their get-together.



The obligatory Conference Photograph outside Hinsley Hall. Please read Catherine Orford and Marie Gallagher's accounts of how the weekend turned out. Judging by the smiling faces, everyone had a great time .

Picture cards for the archives sent in from Barbara Stanyer (was Walker).



PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

O GLORIOUS APOSTLE St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of

The traitor who delivered thy beloved Master into the hands of His Enemies has caused thee to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes thee universally as the Patron of Hopeless Cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me who am so helpless and alone.

Make use, I implore thee, of that particular privilege granted to thee to bring visible and speedy help where help was almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, but in particular, that...(Here make your intention) and that I may praise God with thee and with all the Saints forever. I promise thee, O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favour and never cease to honor thee as my special and powerful patron, and to do all in my power gratefully to encourage devotion thee. Amen.

St Jude is the "Patron of Hopeless Cases" and is renowned for this worldwide.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

GLORIOUS APOSTLE St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered thy beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused thee to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes thee universally as the Patron of Hopeless Cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me who am so helpless and alone. Make use, I implore thee, of that particular privilege granted to thee to bring visible and speedy help where help was almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, but in particular, that... (Here make your intention) and that I may praise God with thee and with all the Saints forever. I promise thee, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor and never cease to honor thee as my special and powerful patron, and to do all in my power gratefully to encourage devotion to thee. Amen.

St. Jude is the "Patron of Hopeless Cases," and is renowned for this worldwide.

This photo of a prayer card was posted on the Manchester Association facebook page by Maria Wykes. She said the prayer helped her immensely.



British Federation of Notre Dame de Namur

<http://bfnda.org/>



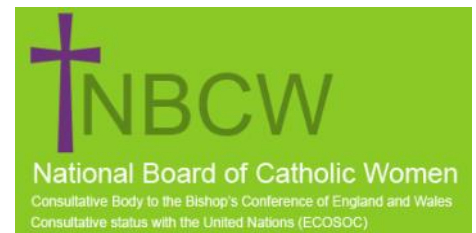
The African Well Project in Kitenda, Congo.

Website details for further information on our
current charity

<https://sddengw.org/category/african-photovoltaic-project/>

The National Board of Catholic Women

<https://www.nbcw.co.uk/>



The Irenaeus Project

<https://www.irenaeus.co.uk/>



Other organisations mentioned within articles.

<https://cafod.org.uk/>



<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/> Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales



<https://www.coalitionforglobalprosperity.com/>



<https://millionminutes.org/>



<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/>





“The more difficult the times are,
the more we must expect and hope everything
from the goodness of the good God.”

St. Julie Billiart

