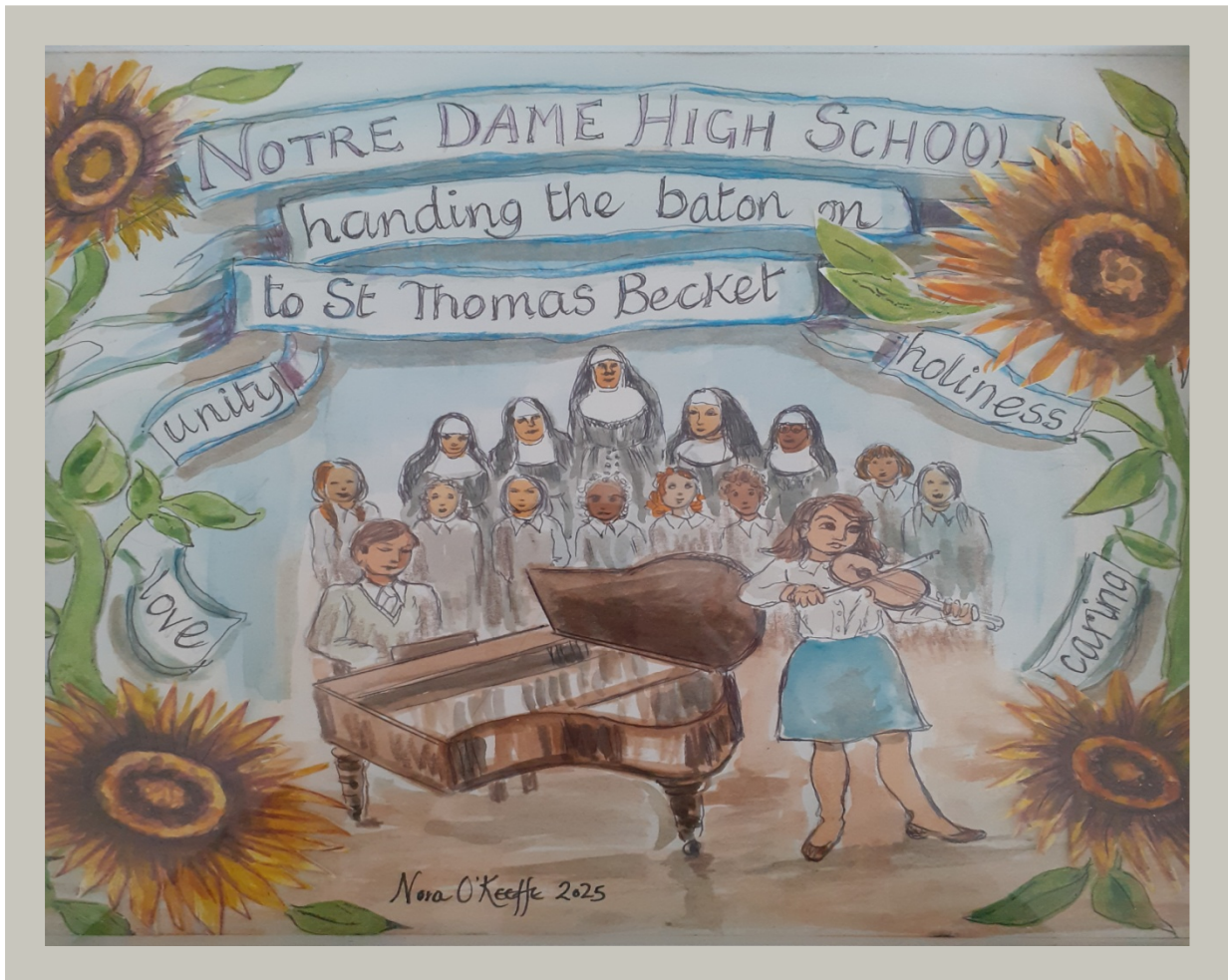


Northampton Notre Dame Association



Following our successful 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the school's closure the committee wanted to thank the staff and pupils of St Thomas Becket School with a painting to recall the occasion. The artist was our very own former pupil and teacher at both - Nora O'Keeffe. She has managed to capture both the past and the present in this delightful study entitled

'handing the baton on'

Minutes of Northampton Notre Dame Association AGM
Held on Sunday 19th April 2026

At the Freemason's Hall, Sheaf Close Northampton

Committee Members Present: Hilary Helm, President, Cathy Chaplin, Kathleen Fisher, MariAn Kneafsey, Pam Nock, Celine Perkins and Marie Thomas ~ Canon Dr Brendan Killeen, Chaplain, joined the meeting later

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer: Hilary welcomed everyone to the AGM. During the last year four of our members have passed away. They are Kathleen Crick who joined the school in 1946; Ann Crees *née* Walker who joined in 1948; Molly Owens *née* Allison who joined 1941 and Margaret Barnes who joined in 1943. The prayer "Eternal rest" was said followed by a Hail Mary for those members not present.

2. Apologies: A list showing those who had sent apologies was displayed on the seating plan notice board.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 26th April 2025: The minutes were circulated to all members with the Spring Newsletter. No comments were received. The minutes were proposed by Lynne Derry and seconded by Mary Kerridge.

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Correspondence: Correspondence is mainly by email consisting of information of those members who have passed away.

6. Accounts: The accounts from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 were presented by our Treasurer Cathy Chaplin. A balance of £2,391.25 was shown.

7. President's Report: Hilary Helm, our President, gave her report which is attached to the minutes.

8. Any Other Business: The role of BFNDA President is for three years only therefore Hilary will be handing over her badge of office at the end of Sunday lunch next year and the task of finding someone to take over has already begun. If you feel you would like to follow in Hilary's footsteps or you would like to nominate someone who you think would be suitable please have a chat with Kathleen and she will set the ball rolling.

The following is an article in St Gregory's newsletter: We give thanks to God for those connected with the Northampton Notre Dame School who have paid for a slate plaque to be placed beneath the Cross in the Church car park; they have also paid for all the plaques to be affixed to the walls. All the plaques have now been secured to the walls so please do have a look the next time you are passing by!

Meeting closed at 12:27


Date for AGM & Meal for next year: Sunday 18th April 2027

Northampton Notre Dame Association

Accounts 2025

Income £		Expenditure £
3,773.13	Bank Balance 1 st January 2025	
2,014.00	Annual General Meeting	1,981.50
530.00	BFNDA Capitation	515.00
450.00	Administration – postage and printing	318.17
948.00	Notre Dame Charity	1,000.00
1,035.00	Commemoration of school closure in July	2,896.82
322.00	Raffles	
401.00	Christmas social	101.90
	Gifts	30.00
	Donations	106.20
	Bank Charges	70.29
9,473.13	TOTAL	7,019.88

- Income (including opening balance) less expenditure = **£2,453.25**.
- Closing bank balance on 31st December 2025 and shown below = £2,391.25.
- Difference of £62.00 is due to the proceeds of the Christmas raffle not being included on this statement –it was deposited on 15th January and included on the January bank statement.
- The decrease in funds over the year is mainly due to the subsidising of the July Reunion where costs exceeded donations by £1,861.82.

	12 May 2026	Page 1 of 1
Northampton Notre Dame Association 55 ECTON PARK ROAD NORTHAMPTON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NN3 5EB	Your Account Sort Code 30-99-50 Account Number 21605868	
COMMUNITY ACCOUNT	01 December 2025 to 31 December 2025	
Money In	£220.00	Balance on 01 December 2025
Money Out	£200.95	Balance on 31 December 2025
		£2,392.20
		£2,391.25

It really doesn't seem very long since I last stood here giving a Report and yet such a lot has happen during the last 12 months.

Although the proposed commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the school's closing was not a Notre Dame Association event it was organised by the Association committee. At first it seemed to be rather a daunting idea but with the help, support and encouragement of the staff of St Thomas Becket Catholic School it was even better than we dared to hope for. The enthusiasm of everyone who came along, and you did come along, filling the centre aisle of the cathedral. The music, courtesy of the pupils and staff of the school; the singing of the hymns and songs from decades ago sounded as good as they ever did. Grateful thanks to Fr Brendan for celebrating the Mass with a homily on sunflowers. And then everyone retired to the St Thomas Centre for refreshments and it really is a wonder that the roof stayed on the building with the volume of all of those ladies catching up on the news about families and friends.

We wanted to express our thanks to the school pupils and staff in a permanent way and so we asked our resident artist, Nora O'Keeffe, to portray the relationship between the two schools and it's summed up rather nicely I think - Notre Dame High School handing the baton on to St Thomas Becket. We duly presented the finished picture in February to Head Teacher Mr Paul McGahill, School Chaplain Rose Darwin and Head of Music Matt White during a school Mass. It was a simple but quite moving ceremony.

Meanwhile the Notre Dame cycle continued and in September we headed north for the annual Weekend Away (previously known as the Conference). It was my first Weekend as President of the BFNDA but with Cathy and Kathleen supporting me everything went very smoothly and everyone seemed to have a good time. Mary Kerridge joined us for the first time and I'm sure that she will be very happy to tell you all about it. Please think about joining us, it's a relaxed time with plenty of fun and laughter along the way - I'd love to see you there. You will find flyers and joining forms on the tables in the dining room for this year's Weekend. The Federation is starting to make plans for its 100th Anniversary in 2028, just two years away. It would be wonderful if we could pack Hinsley Hall for the whole weekend like we did in 2018 to mark the 90th Anniversary.

In December we went back to the Freemasons Hall for our Christmas Social. We had a light lunch with a chance to have a chat with friends; take part in a table quiz and revisit Christmas carols from the past. It is such a gentle way to start thinking about Christmas.

Also during the year I attended the funeral services for departed Association members Molly Owens and Margaret Barnes.



A letter from Weekend Away Events Organiser **Mrs Catherine Orford**

I am excited to invite you all to join us at our Annual Notre Dame Weekend Away which will be at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, from Friday 4th September to Sunday 6th September. Whether you have joined us for this Weekend for years or have never been before, you will be assured of a warm welcome and an interesting weekend in the company of friends.

Our Weekend Away is an amazing opportunity to meet people from across the country, who share our experience of a Notre Dame education and to find out about how we can continue to support the Mission of the Notre Dame Sisters. This year we are again extending the invitation to friends and partners; so if you know someone who would enjoy the Weekend they are welcome to join us. Depending on the demand, we can arrange an activity for them while we are attending our AGM.

Hinsley Hall is set in its own extensive grounds and offers comfortable single en-suite accommodation. There are also a few double and twin ensuite rooms. Hinsley Hall has a licensed bar. Our Weekend includes all meals, and the staff has always catered for any dietary requests.

The programme for the Weekend will include: an optional Saturday morning drive, the Annual General Meeting and a Gala Dinner. There will be fundraising with a raffle and craft stalls to support our Charity. Vice-President Lorraine Platt will be leading a gentle exercise session of Pilates and more vigorous Zumba (suitable for all abilities and a great way to relax your muscles if you've had a long journey) and will support me in hosting our Friday evening entertainment. Our chaplain Fr Chris Thomas will say Mass on Sunday Morning.

I hope that people who have never thought of coming before might decide to join us. Come along with friends or come alone and make new friends; it is going to be a great Weekend! Please ask for a booking form which gives prices for the full weekend, Saturday lunch to Sunday lunch or Saturday lunch and the AGM. Please contact me if you would like any further information. I look forward to receiving all your booking forms and to seeing you at Hinsley Hall.

Kind regards Catherine



NOTRE DAME ANNUAL WEEKEND AWAY

For former pupils and staff of Notre Dame
Schools and their friends or partners

at

HINSLEY HALL, LEEDS

from

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September 2026

Price: £299.00

For more information contact:

Catherine Orford Events Organiser on

Catherine.anne1@mac.com

Alternatively Hilary Helm on

hilaryhelm6@gmail.com



Coffee Fellowship

Just for a change we thought how about a morning meeting at

Moulton Community Centre
Sandy Hill, Reedings, Moulton NN3 7AX

On Thursday 16th July at 10:30am

Cost £10.00 per person

Family and friends are welcome too!

Ample free car parking and easy access

Please send your replies by Tuesday 30th June

I wish to pay by bank transfer:

A/C name: Northampton Notre Dame Association

Sort code: 30-99-50 a/c no. 21605868

And email the completed form to cathychaplin@hotmail.co.uk

Name:

I enclose a cheque for £_____ in payment for ____ people.

Farewell & Rest In Peace

Kathleen Crick

Kathleen, who passed away in October 2025,
joined the school in 1946



Margaret Barnes

Margaret, who passed away in January 2026,
joined the school in 1943

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With best regards to you all from the Committee

Cathy, Celine, Hilary, Kathleen, MariAn, Marie and Pam