The PASTONIAN Association Newsletter

a newsletter dedicated to all former members of St Mary’s School, Cambridge

Once a St Mary’s Girl, Always a St Mary’s Girl!

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**Headmistress’ welcome and introduction**

As Rachel says in her presidential introduction, much of the work of our foundress Mary Ward, was about building communities. Mary Ward left the monastery of the Poor Clares in St Omer and established a house for English nuns in 1609-1611. Mary gathered some companions and they began to explore the idea of founding a new religious order.

They were Winifred Wigram, Susannah Rockwood, Jane Brown, Catherine Smithe and Mary Poynz. They were soon joined by Barbara Balthorpe and Barbara Ward, Mary’s sister. They were educated women, for example, Frances Bedingfeld who joined them a little later, was able to read the Old Testament in Hebrew. Mary’s friends helped her discern her vocation; when she initially called them together, they returned to St Omer and spent some time considering the rules of various orders but did not adopt any of them as they did not seem to provide a suitable setting for their vision of the religious life. Then, in 1611, Mary had a spiritual experience in which she felt led to adopt the rule of St Ignatius, the Jesuit rule. Contemporary commentators say that she could never have achieved what she did without the support of her circle of friends. There is evidence of how she relied on them in the letters she wrote to them, including the ‘lemon juice’ letters written from prison. She entrusted them with the task of overseeing the various schools she founded across Europe. One of the circle would stay to work after a school until it was established and Mary wrote to them regularly to share her thoughts, difficulties and ideals with them.

Rachel speaks of her equivalent Winifred, Susannah and James: the friendships made at school and has maintained since then; a more recent alumna, Catherine Fildes, makes the identification and optimistic point in her uplifting piece about what St Mary’s ‘souvenirs’ she has kept with her. Rachel goes on to explain very well the opportunity that is Pastonian Connect in terms not only of reconnecting, but also in making new connections and creating new circles of opportunities. Please do use this exciting facility for your own pleasure and benefit as well as that of current members of the school community.

In terms of literal, as opposed to metaphorical, building of communities, I hope that you will all be fascinated by Cory Buckner’s piece on work of her father-in-law, the architect David Roberts, for the convent. What is equally humbling is the tenacity of the CJ sisters, Cory reports that the new extensions and new buildings were carried out over a 1½ year period and involved at least nine contracts. The sisters were clearly very much prepared to stick at the project and see it through which goes back to Catherine’s point regarding what she learnt of tenacity and an unwavering determination to get to the bottom of things’ at school.

Mary Ward’s vision of 1611, supported by her circle of friends, was the beginning of this tenacity and her ambition that ‘By God’s grace, women in time to come will do much’ is clearly being fulfilled by this school on all fronts today. Do enjoy reading both about contemporary academic as well as sporting successes in this latest edition of your Pastonian magazine.

*President’s welcome and introduction*

*President of The Pastonian Association*

How many school friends are you still in touch with? I would say I communicate regularly and meet with 5 school friends. How many do I follow on Facebook, maybe 40?

**President of The Pastonian Association**

How many am I in touch with because of work? 5. How many do I follow on Instagram? Around 15. We live and work with communication literally at our finger tips, but do we use this wisely? How often do we use it to help another, to support, to give? How often do we use it to offer others opportunities or to network to create new circles of opportunity? St Mary’s School’s new platform Pastonian Connect allows us to do just that. To share as little or as much as you wish, but ultimately giving back by offering advice, support, and both giving and gaining fantastic opportunities. In addition, what a fabulous space to share school photos and memories and to learn of events.

Much of the work of our foundress Mary Ward was about building communities. Pastonian Connect is creating just that, not only reconnecting, but making new connections. This will enable networking beyond our immediate circles and may lead us to connect with different generations of alumnae. In a time of division and conflict, how wonderful to be able to pay it forward by offering some support or advice, by sharing an experience, or by being enabled to ask someone else for advice, whether it be for an interview in a particular job sector; giving advice on steps after university, or school. I encourage you to connect and support the growth of the Pastonian community.

Let us all celebrate each other’s successes; please continue to share your news with the Alumnae Officer, Emma Whittley. I think Mary Ward would be amazed at just how much women in time have achieved and, as a visionary, I’m sure she’d be encouraging us to do even more to reach our potential and help others in reaching theirs! Congratulations to all those graduating this summer!

Well done on such fabulous achievements - please continue to share our successes and all the very best to the staff and students for the forthcoming year.

**Charlotte Avery**
*Headmistress*
Examination Results

Congratulations on recent results to:-

- Sophie Satchell - gained a 2:1 in Geography and is going on to complete a masters in Geopolitics at King’s College, London
- Stephanie Jackson - gained a 1st in Psychology and is going on to complete a masters in Forensic Psychology at York
- Alex Holt - gained a 1st in Geography and is going on to complete a masters in Human Geography and Urban Planning at LSE
- Connie Bagley - gained a 2:1 in Nursing and is going on to complete a masters in HR at King’s College, London
- Katie Wallace - gained a 2:1 in Geography, currently holidaying in Vietnam before deciding on her next steps
- Nicola Heylan - qualified as a Paediatric Nurse and is working on the Children’s Ward in Leeds Hospital
- Holly Haines - waiting for her music degree result and is planning a move to London
- Dharaa Parel - waiting for her Classics degree result but will be going on to complete a masters in Classics at either Warwick or London

Higher Education destinations 2016/2017

- Aston University
- City, University of London
- Coventry University
- Durham University
- École hôtelière de Lausanne, Switzerland
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- Imperial College London
- King’s College London
- Lancaster University
- Newcastle University
- Northumbria University
- Royal Agricultural University
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- University College London
- University of Bath
- University of Birmingham
- University of Brighton
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Chester
- University of East Anglia
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Manchester
- University of Nottingham
- University of Reading
- University of Roehampton
- University of Southampton
- University of St Andrews
- University of Warwick
- University of York

Higher Education courses 2016/2017

- Accounting & Finance
- Agriculture & Farm Management
- Architecture
- Biological Science
- Business
- Chemical Engineering
- Classical Civilisation
- Classics
- Dentistry
- Drama & Theatre Arts
- English
- English Language & Linguistics
- English Language & Literature
- English Literature & Drama
- French & Hispanic Studies
- Geography
- Geography & International Development
- Geography & Planning
- Geography (Science)
- History
- Human Geography
- International Hospitality Management
- Management
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Philosophy
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Politics
- Primary Teaching (General)
- Psychology

A welcome to the New Pastonians / the 2017 Sixth Form leavers

On 26 May 2017 the Pastonian Association were delighted to welcome the 2017 Sixth Form leavers as new alumnae. This was celebrated with their final mass at which Father John officiated and a very happy tea party on the Chapel Lawn during which the girls signed the leavers’ book and were each presented with a framed photograph of their year group to treasure. It is particularly exciting this year as The Pastonian Association is launching Pastonian Connect, the new platform for connecting alumnae online which will be valuable for keeping in touch, securely sharing photographs and updates, and providing a way of advertising future employment, work experience and mentoring opportunities.
Senior School and Sixth Form students and their parents and guardians gathered together for our annual Prize Giving ceremony on 30 June. We were delighted to welcome Suzi Digby OBE as our guest speaker (some of you will recall that Suzi adjudicated at this year’s Young Musician of the Year and Young Pianist of the Year competitions).

One of the highlights was Suzi’s recognition of how much we value music education here, but also her insight into our school being “a wonderful example of a caring and enlightened environment that nurtures talent and personality”. Mentioning that the test of a good speech is whether in 30 years’ time people in the audience can remember one thing from it, she encouraged students to get in touch with her in 2047 to let her know what they could remember.

Suzi explained that her own life has been very full and privileged, and sometimes life has been tough too – but that it’s usually the tough, uncomfortable times that lead to real, personal growth. Drawing a comparison with wine, she highlighted that grapes grown in the most arid soil produce the finest wines, and so too encountering a tough environment can encourage young people to blossom.

On happiness, Suzi drew attention to the times in her life when she was most deeply, lastingly and totally happy being the times when she was able to finally see the results of sometimes months of working incredibly hard at something – particularly if it enriched the lives of others around her. She encouraged the girls that “each time you break through a glass ceiling and achieve something that other people think you can’t, you build up your self-esteem by another brick. You go further down the path of knowing who you are and showing that version of who you are to others around you.”

Whilst Suzi gave the girls some sage advice for their time beyond school – that to be successful each of us needs to work hard, ask for help whenever it’s needed, keep healthy, support our friends, find a role-model, and make music (“if you don’t play an instrument, find a choir. Nothing keeps you healthier in mind and body”) – above all else she urged the girls, drawing on Erasmus’ wisdom that “it is the choicest point of happiness that a man is willing to be what he is”, to be themselves.

It is exactly this – our students becoming their best selves, through discovering talents and interests, working hard and being resilient in the face of disappointment – that we seek to celebrate at our annual Prize Giving. Those in attendance will know that we award for each year group a Prize for Progress and a Prize for Excellence in each subject, as well as one Governors’ Prize for Excellence in each year group. Some highlights from the ceremony are as follows.

Special Prizes

Charlotte Goddard Prize for Classics: Sophie Y. (Year 10)
Mary Chapman Creative Writing Prize: Lenato M. (Upper Sixth)
The Kay Dodsworth Award for Dance: Rebecca G. (Year 10)
Sr Christina Trophy for Lower Sixth English: Henrietta M. (Lower Sixth)
Mme Munday & Mme Francis French Cup: Mia R.B. (Year 9)
Susan Cattell German Cup: Lucy Q. (Year 10)
Hazel Pritchett Harris Award for Excellence in Mathematics: Chemy H. (Upper Sixth)
Q uintaus Benziger Music Prize: Chemy C. (Upper Sixth)
The Poetry Cup: Juliette L. (Year 7)
Sr Christopher Prize for Science: Natasha C-C. (Lower Sixth)
Sr Prisca Memorial Textiles Prize: Alice P. (Year 11)
Hope Gilbert Cup for Charity Work: Ellen C., Honora D., Isabelle L. (all Upper Sixth)
Alfred & Helen Jackson Trophy for Contribution to Ethos in Year 6: Grace J. (Year 8)
Judith Marriott Memorial Cup for Year 10 Service to the School: Rosemary T. (Year 10)
Mary Ward Prize for Lower Sixth Personal Development: Gabriella B. (Lower Sixth)
Kodicek Prize for Contribution to the School Community: Megan W. (Lower Sixth)
Taylor Cup for Service to the School: Julie C. (Upper Sixth)
Grace Deng Memorial Prize for Excellence in academic standards, embracing all aspects of school life and making a positive contribution across the school community: Jesulyn F. (Lower Sixth)
St Mary’s Centenary Award for Exceptional Service to the School: Aisling H-B. (Upper Sixth)
Anna Ladds Technology Award: Bella T. (Year 9)
Special award for outstanding academic achievement: Selena Y. (Lower Sixth)
Ingrid Hoffman trophy for the all-round sports woman in the Sixth Form: Annie Q. (Lower Sixth)
**Sports Award Dinner**

The eagerly anticipated Sports Awards Dinner on the evening of 3 July did not disappoint; not only did we hear from Mrs Jackie Ewing, Head of PE, regarding some of the exceptional sporting achievements of our students throughout this year, but we also heard from Miss Nicky Lees, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, about her quite startling personal challenge of this year which was to participate in - and succeed in completing - the Marathon Des Sables (see below).

After dinner, special guests Jo Jackson, three-time Olympic swimmer and Bronze medalist, and Danielle Brown (MBE), Paralympic archer, introduced themselves to the audience, and hosted an insightful and inspiring Q&A session with the girls. After the Q&A session it was time for the awards to be presented - congratulations to everyone who received recognition of their talent and efforts this year. You can see some of the special mentions from Mrs Jackie Ewing as follows:

**Record breakers**

- **Shot:** Charlotte D. (Year 11) – 11.16m, beating the previous record, held for 24 years, by 2.11 metres
- **Long jump:** Eleanor M. (Year 8) – 4.34m, beating the previous record, held for 24 years, by 25cm
- **High jump:** Maya B. (Year 7) – beating the previous record, held for 24 years, by 7cm
- **Javelin:** Poppy E. (Year 8) – equalling the 1992 record of 1.35cm
- **1500m:** Matilda T. (Year 9) – beat the previous record, held for 20 years, by 4.80m
- **Javelin:** Emma W. (Year 10) – beating the previous record, held for nine years, by 10.53m
- **1500m:** Beth W. (Year 10) – 5.13m, beating the previous record, held for 17 years, by 2 seconds

**County, regional, and beyond**

Students who performed at county, regional or above in their sport have also been recognised for their exceptional achievements:

- **Holly T.** (Year 9), finished 8th in the England Youth Fencing Championship 2017 in the U15 Girls Foil
- **Emma W.** (Year 10), qualified for the English Schools National Athletics Competition for javelin and is currently ranked 4th in the country for U17 3600 javelin
- **Francesca K.** (Year 9), succeeded in getting through to one of the national performance centres in hockey
- **Amelia S.** (Year 11) trained and performed with one of the national performance centres in hockey
- **Matilda T.** (Year 9) qualified and ran at the English Schools National Cross Country Championship
- **Daisy M.** (Year 10) qualified to represent the East of England U18 squad for the National Championships in 1* eventing

**School awards**

The Ingrid Hoffman trophy for the all-round sports woman in the Sixth Form was awarded to **Annie Q.**, Lower Sixth student and 2017/2018 Games Captain.

The Burleigh Cup for the Year 11 sports woman was awarded to **Emily H.**

The team of the year was awarded to the **Year 7 Olympic Cup winners**.
More News from the School...

Miss Lees’ Marathon Des Sables success!

Many of you will remember reading in the last Pastonian Newsletter about our Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Head of Spanish, Miss Nicky Lees’ ambition to undertake an extraordinary challenge over the Easter break: Marathon Des Sables, a run spanning the distance of six marathons over the course of six days in the Sahara desert, with daily distances ranging from around 19 miles to over 56 miles.

Miss Lees set off for Morocco on Friday 7 April, with the race starting on Sunday 9 April. Miss Lees set herself the challenge because she genuinely didn’t know whether she would manage it, and because she believed: “a challenge isn’t really a challenge if you already know you can do it before you start.”

Day one was about 30km with some runnable stretches but also plenty of small dunes which Miss Lees said were like running through peanut butter! It was a hot day but not unbearably so, and she finished in just under five hours. Friends had been suggesting songs for her playlist and Miss Lees had been saving them until she needed a boost in the desert - she was very appreciative thinking of everyone who had encouraged her throughout her training!

Day two - “Still alive - just!”. A brutal 25 miles, hotter than day one, with a headwind. Sand dunes throughout, a near-vertical rocky drop with a fixed rope and then a near-vertical sandy drop which was a lot like skiing on a black run. Miss Lees had “pretty sore feet, but otherwise all fine” and received quite a few emails at the end of day one and was grateful to all who sent them. She was looking forward to a hot pot for dinner with HP sauce when she signed off!

Day three was super hot, quite humid and absolutely brutal, again. Miss Lees said “I think it was the hardest running day of my life”. Huge sandy climbs, technical rocky ascents and descents, fixed rope climbs and descents, hot plains, exposed windy ridges... At one point she froze on a climb and had to have a stern talk with herself and managed to complete the day OK, but was feeling quite worried about day four. So far she had sore feet and a sore shoulder, and a few cuts and grazes, but was otherwise OK. Miss Lees also mentioned how ‘absolutely stunning’ the scenery was and how lucky she was to be there, although it was all a bit surreal.

Day four was ‘the long one’ and runners had to run during the night. Miss Lees got back in one piece before sunrise and, after a sleep, contacted us to let us know she was feeling OK, but that that “was the hardest day” she has ever had physically. So much sand, so much up and down, and brutally hot again. It reached 50 degrees on one of the days so most of the group started ‘the long one’ dehydrated. With over five miles of dunes, in the dark, Miss Lees said she was really scared but, again, had a stern talk with herself and thought of everyone at home and clearly managed to complete the day, and she said that the suggested songs on her playlist, with jokes and a poem, really helped.

Day five: Miss Lees said: “FINISHED!! I am utterly spent but elated too. Can’t believe I managed it! Today was typically hot and sandy. I was going pretty well but took a spectacular tumble and didn’t quite know where I was or what had happened. I was winded and had cut an elbow, both knees, one leg and have grazed my arm and side. Not bad all in one go! But I’m still standing and still smiling. It’s been one heck of a week. It feels like I’ve been out here for ages, and it has also gone in a flash. I’ve been so buoyed by all the messages and support from back home and once again I thought of you all lots – you have all kept me going.” Well done to Miss Lees! She finished 75th female and 617th overall, but said “for me it was all about completing the biggest challenge of my life rather than rankings.”

Update from Miss Lees during the challenge

She was fundraising for NSPCC - and if you would like to recognise Miss Lees’ extraordinary achievement by donating to the society, please click here.
Million Metre Row

Rowing the equivalent of 26 marathons (1 million metres) over the course of the day, the students and their families rowed at least 16 kilometres each, with many of them coming back and adding to the total over the course of the day. During the morning the girls were joined by 10 members of the Cambridge University Boat Club, including Chief Coach, Olympian (Gold, Sydney 2000) and Junior School parent, Steve Trapmore MBE, who rowed alongside the girls as part of their training. During the afternoon the winning Cambridge University Women’s Boat Club squad (which includes Tokyo 2020 hopefuls) also attended the event, with Rio 2016 Olympian, Claire Lambe (Ireland) rowing to help make up the distance. Claire and her fellow crew members not only inspired the girls with their experiences but found themselves being inspired by the girls and their determination, commenting that their enthusiasm was infectious.

Since October 2016, the school has been running a weekend rowing programme for girls aged 12 to 16. The programme is proving successful and the school would like to expand this offering so more students can participate. To enable this to happen we need to raise funds for more equipment as well as coaching resources.

In order to accommodate more students into the rowing programme we are partnering with the City of Cambridge Rowing Club to replace and expand their existing boathouse. The new boathouse will be available to accommodate more students into the club by the Spring of 2019.

Charlotte Avery, our Headmistress, thanked all of the girls and families who took part in the event, saying that she enjoyed helping them to meet the 1 million metre mark. All monies raised will directly benefit our students, as we can build up our rowing offering. Ms Avery said: “We have a really talented group of rowers and we want them to have the opportunity to compete at the Henley Women’s Regatta or the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in due course and the monies raised from the event will help us achieve this.”

News from the Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends is delighted to announce the election of a new chair and treasurer. Emma Dunn (mother of Tabitha and Lucy) is the newly appointed Chair and Michelle Ballance Gao (mother of Emily) has agreed to be the new secretary.

The Circle and school community warmly thank Helen Hyde, the former Chair, for all her hard work and good humour in organising so many successful and entertaining events. The idea behind the Circle of Friends is that once you have been a member of our School community you are always welcome (ie the continuous circle) and by way of example, it is wonderful that this year Helen, despite her daughter completing her time at St Mary’s is prepared to continue to support the Circle and has offered to help mastermind the Christmas Fayre which has always been her favourite event. Thank you Helen.

St Mary’s Circle of Friends’ Tea Party

Emma Dunn has made a very impressive start to her time as Chair by instigating a meeting with other members and producing a diary of events which started in the first week of the Autumn Term with a new event. The St Mary’s Circle of Friends Tea Party which was held on Friday 8 September and was a huge success with over 200 people attending, including girls, parents, staff and governors from both the Junior and Senior School. Due to the inclement weather the event was moved from a marquee on the Chapel lawn to the school hall and everyone enjoyed tea, coffee and delicious sandwiches and cakes. The younger girls were kept busy with a treasure hunt and face painting whilst the older girls had their nails painted and took fun selfie photos under the flower bower.

Trinity/Clare May Ball

On Monday 19 June 2017 the Circle of Friends organised a punting trip to view the fireworks from the river at the Trinity College May Ball. We hired two punts with 12 in each punt and made our way along the river sipping fizz and, by happy coincidence, were being punting by an alumna who is working for the summer with Scudamore punts! It was a very jolly event, the fireworks were amazing and we have already had requests for the limited tickets for next year.
Mary Ward House Tea Party

On Friday 2nd June, although the school was closed for spring half term, Mary Ward House, the new boarding house was very much open for the Pastonian Association to have a tour around and an afternoon tea party whilst catching up with each other. The catering staff at Mary Ward House did a splendid job of providing delicious sandwiches, scones and cakes.

This was a reunion that was initiated by the alumnae themselves and took place mainly in The Panton Arms. However, whilst conducting the tour and showing them the new and exciting developments that had happened during the 33 years since they had left, we discussed the possibility of organising a more formal “35 years out Reunion dinner” in 2019. We also visited their old haunts which had not changed at all and brought back happy memories and the chance to take a photo in their old form room.

Congratulations to Mary Pitman (née Moir). On Friday 12 May 2017 we invited Mary Pitman and her daughter and son into school to celebrate her 100th birthday which she had enjoyed in April. It was a lovely afternoon as we gave Mary a tour of the school and had tea with the Headmistress and the incoming Head Girl. Mary was delighted to be presented with some flowers and a St Mary’s bag with some school goodies and Mary particularly enjoyed the St Mary’s teddy bear.

Catherine J A Fildes (2008-2010)
Communications Executive
Legal & General Investment Management

I attended St Mary’s from 2008 to 2010. Although my tenure at St Mary’s was short, it was the most fantastic two years. When asked why, I say it’s the ‘souvenirs’ that I left with. Namely, these are my friends (whom I still see very regularly), and one of whom recently got married; tenacity and an unwavering determination to ‘get to the bottom of things’; the St Mary’s ‘gumption’; and ability to turn my hand to anything; true compassion for other people and their individual journey, my desire to support and inspire the women around me; a strong sense of personal potential – that is knowing that I am capable and should never listen to anyone who says I can’t do something (within reason); – and last but not least, a passion for Paradise Lost and school lunches.

After leaving St Mary’s, I went on to graduate with a degree in Philosophy (minor in French) from the University of York and embark on a career in investment management. There’s not a single experience that I had at St Mary’s that hasn’t benefitted me in some way in later life. Advice that some of the teachers at St Mary’s gave me I still say to myself on a daily basis. Mrs Williams, for example, used to tell me to read and study at any opportunity I could. I credit much of my academic and professional success to this particular nugget of wisdom, as you can never know too much and you can never, ever be too inquisitive. (Curiosity didn’t kill the cat; the cat was just off on an adventure out of sight). In a similar way, Mrs Brown always taught us to think about the ‘big picture’. She wasn’t happy with us just learning what we needed to know to pass an exam or meet a set of criteria - she wanted us to be well informed, able to comprehend connecting events and not treat things in isolation. We were encouraged get all sides of the story, rather than present a parochial argument that rested on small snippets of information or well-rehearsed facts.

Finally, there was Mrs Garrett, who taught me that every word counts and expressing oneself clearly, eloquently and with conviction was important. There have been so many times I’ve found myself in meetings, nervous about impressing the people in the room or conscious that I might not be able to persuade them as to my position, but then I remember that I have been given the skills to make the situation my own.

Contributions from the Pastonians

Where are they now…?

This year, our Second Annual Luncheon was held for both alumnae and current students on 12 August 2017 in Hong Kong. Twenty students attended and had lunch at a restaurant called Chez Bistro. Jesslyn Fung who is our current Head Boarder commented “it was nice meeting and chatting with people from different years, and we had some great advice in terms of universities from the older ones”. Thanks to Sabrina Chien, our ambassador in Hong Kong for organising the Luncheon which was very successful.
Introducing Pastonian Connect – with a full “How to Guide”

Since 2014 and the establishment of the Pastonian Association under the auspices of the school, the association and the connection of alumnae with each other and the school community has been growing gradually and steadily.

During this period we have built a data base with 2900 alumnae recorded (not all the data we have is correct and this is constantly being reviewed and cleaned), produced regular newsletters, developed a dedicated Facebook page with over 120 members and held several reunion drinks, tours, lunches and afternoon teas. However, there really is so much more we can do together and as your Alumnae Officer, I am delighted to introduce Pastonian Connect, an exclusive platform where alumnae can connect easily and quickly with the entire alumnae community.

Pastonian Connect is an online platform that brings the alumnae of St Mary’s School, Cambridge together in a single network for easy searching and connecting. It allows alumnae to post jobs and internships and offer their support to the community if they are willing to help mentor or teach.

Pastonian Connect will be launched in September and in advance of that I have put together some useful explanations that I hope will answer some of your questions before you have an exploratory try yourselves.

What can I do on Pastonian Connect? Directly: Find old friends, make new connections, professional or personal, and network with other Pastonians in similar or different fields.

Your profile: Make updates to your contact and employment information when they change, and share updates with the rest of the Pastonian’s network about projects you are currently involved in.

Knowledge sharing: Volunteer to be a mentor to other alumnae or search for alumnae who can help you with career advice and information.

Jobs and opportunities: Find and share job openings and other opportunities such as internships and work experience.

Events: Find out about Pastonian alumnae events occurring near you or in your sector of work.

Messaging: Receive and send messages to other alumnae through the platform by email or through LinkedIn or Facebook.

Special Interests: Follow or start a special interest page to bring together Pastonian alumnae who have a common goal or interest.

Is this just another social media channel? No. Pastonian Connect does not replace our social media channels and in fact it pulls St Mary’s Facebook and Twitter feeds into our site. It is different from social media because it enables you to find, search and connect with other Pastonians quickly and easily.

What Alumnae are part of Pastonian Connect? You will find the entire Pastonian alumnae community at your fingertips – all alumnae for whom we have an email address will be invited to join the site. If you know a Pastonian who is not active on Pastonian Connect please encourage her to join the site!

How Secure is Pastonian Connect? The Platform is a closed network accessible only by individuals pre-approved by the alumnae officer, Emma Whitley, at St Mary’s School, Cambridge.

How can I access the platform? For now, you can only access it on your desktop computer. A Pastonian App will be available in the future.

How do I get started? Please click on https://pastonianconnect.com

Godspeed and thanks to departing Governors

Mr Graeme Minto CBE, has faithfully served as the Chair of Governors for the last two and a half years and prior to that sat on the board for two years. Graeme has sat on our Finance & General Purposes Committee and has supported our Marketing and Communications function. Under his auspices, the school has purchased the former Hope Nursing Home, a significant acquisition for the school’s property portfolio which will support the school’s financial health for decades to come. Graeme has also overseen our ambitions regarding sporting outreach both in terms of connections with Cambridge City Rowing Club to enable the School to gain water frontage on the River Cam and also our innovative connection with Homerton College regarding the upgrading of our sports facilities at Long Road. We owe Graeme a huge debt of gratitude and we wish him well as he continues to serve the wider community in other ventures including through the Rotary Club and the Anglican church through local parish work.

Mr Chris Smart, father of Sarah whose education at St Mary’s included the Sixth Form, served actively on our Governing Body for 9 years. With a particular focus on school finances and school IT, he helped ensure the sound financial footing of the school as well as overseeing our digital strategy including iPad technology, Mrs Ann McAllister, mother of two daughters who completed their senior School year at St Mary’s, also served on the board for the full term of three sets of three years. She used her legal mind to support legal and compliance matters including the drafting of numerous policies and procedures, all of which was done with good humour and good grace. Mrs Teresa Selvey served on the board for the past two years and as Head of a Catholic primary school took a particular interest in matters pertaining to the Junior School; she sat on the panel which appointed Mr Matthew Orrillery as Head of Juniors. We wish her well as she continues her work overseeing a Multi-Academy Trust in Newmarket.

Mr Mike Hemingway, teacher of History and Geography for the past 4 years, who has given much to our International programme as well as our rowing and Duke of Edinburgh’s Award activities, we wish both men success and happiness as they move on to teach at other establishments. We thank Mr Verty Bell for his expertise as a dedicated and professional teacher of EAL over the past 3 years and wish her much enjoyment of her baby son alongside ongoing success in her publishing career.

We thank Miss Chloe Evans for her enthusiasm as an NQT teacher of Music during the maternity leave of Mrs Emma Levy, this academic year; we wish her energy and vision as she moves on to establish a music department at a new prep school.

Regarding those with support functions, we thank Mrs Vijuja Rodger for her role in the Learning Support Department over the last 8 years, in particular supporting those students who found the application of conceptual challenges difficult and wish her happiness in ventures beyond classroom support.

We thank Mr Alfonso Garcia Polo for his gracious and kindly support as our Spanish Language Assistant for the past four years, and Miss Alice Laudits for her support not only as our French Assistant for the past 3 years but as a dedicated Matron to our boarders; we wish her well as she trains to be a qualified teacher. Finally, we thank Miss Julie Hoog for her support over the last 18 months in heading up our Development Office and in particular for her enthusiastic commitment to our junior rowing programme. We wish her well as she pursues new ventures.

Farewells from the Headmistress - July 2017

Godspeed and thanks to departing colleagues

As I like to remind everyone annually, St Mary’s is a community of those members who live in it, draw inspiration from the past, garner present resources and plan for its future prosperity.

As ever at this time of year we say goodbye to staff members for a variety of reasons including retirement, family commitments, alternative career opportunities and promotion. Commitment and dedication to this school community are remarkable. I recognised departing staff in my speech at Prize Giving. We wish them all God-speed and happiness as they venture into pastures new.

This summer we bid farewell, with gratitude, to these Heads of Department. Mrs Gill Clifford, Head of Art, who is venturing into pastures new including her own painting having given unstinting service over a brilliant 12 year career at St Mary’s, Mrs Delia Russell, Head of Physics for the past 8 years, who has delivered consistently strong teaching and excellent results at both A Level and GCSE; we wish her happiness in her retirement, and to Mrs Ellen Egger, Head of Economics & Business Studies, whose thank you for her excellent and dedicated teaching over the past 3 years and wish her well as she moves on to teach at another school.

We thank Mrs Diana Larman thank her for committed service not only as an inspirational Teacher of English an overseer of school debating and our library, as well as as to being our Evening Receptonist over the last 14 years. We thank Mr Wade Melville for being our inaugural teacher of Photography over the past 5 years as well as his active part in our Sixth Form Reviews (Grease Lightning will never be the same again!) and Mr Mike
A Power Point presentation introduced the attendees to
Roberts’ life and numerous works in Cambridge often designed
with his partner Geoffrey Clarke. The seminar also served as a
fundraiser for my book project, *David Roberts: A Measured Life*,
to be published in 2018.

With great knowledge of architectural history and building
craft, David Roberts and his partner Geoffrey Clarke designed
more buildings for Cambridge colleges than any other
architecture practice in the history of the University. Their
body of work reveals a hybrid of modernism and contextualism,
demonstrating skilful manipulation of light and space and
thoughtful use of natural building materials in response to an
historical city.

St. Mary’s Convent School is one of the early projects designed
by Roberts who began his practice and an assistant lectureship
at the School of Architecture in Cambridge in 1946. Two of
the three stages for St. Mary’s were designed before Geoffrey
Clarke became a partner in 1965. Each stage was assigned a
project architect from the office, which often hired students
from the classes Roberts taught at the school. Peter Hall served
as project architect for Stage I in 1959; Philip Dunne served as
project architect for Stage II in 1962; and Tim Mathias served
as project architect for Stage III in 1967 and 1969.

St. Mary’s Convent and its schools previously occupied two
Victorian villas about 100 feet apart, with prewar extensions.
The new extensions and new buildings for the school were
carried out in stages between 1955 and 1971 and involved
at least nine contracts; to provide classrooms, assembly hall
and dining rooms, dormitories, and gymnasium. Roberts was
consistent in addressing the neighboring context and scale
with a formality fitting a convent.

The first stage of the work for St. Mary’s consisted of extensions
to the convent and school in order to provide an assembly hall,
dining hall, library, classrooms and laboratories. It is a simple
construction of concrete portal frames and brick infill, which
houses the dining hall and the assembly room.

The three-story buildings with the library and classrooms were
constructed as part of Stage II with the main entrance on the
street. The construction is the same as Stage I but with slate
covering the concrete floor slabs. The entrance leads to a broad
fully glazed corridor, which extends to all three sides of the court.
Stage III is a long block, similar in structure and finishes to
Stage II and extending along Bateman Street. From the cycle
park on the ground floor, rises the main staircase, which is fully
glazed, with precast concrete mullions. On the upper floors are
classrooms and laboratories.

All three phases of development form a courtyard around which
all buildings, new and existing, are grouped with a simple
formality and an avoidance of extravagance, so fitting for a
convent school.

Cory Buckner is a practicing architect, writer, and publisher
in Los Angeles where she and her late husband, Nick Roberts,
restored several mid-century houses in Crestwood Hills, designed
by A. Quincy Jones, Whitney R. Smith, and Edgardo Contari.
She has published three books: *A. Quincy Jones*, published in
2002 by Phaidon Press, *Crestwood Hills; The Chronicle of a
Modernist Community*, published in 2015 by Angel City Press,
and *The Lyman House and Work of Frederic P. Lyman* published
in 2016 by Crestwood Hills Press.

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Dates for your diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th September</td>
<td>Circle of Friends meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To be held in the LRC at 7.00pm until 9.00pm. All current parents of the JS and SS are welcome and all alumnae are welcome too.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd November</td>
<td>Quiz Night Please join us for a fun event organised by the Circle of Friends. This event will be held in the school hall from 7.00pm – 10.00pm. Further details will be announced shortly. Whole school event. All alumnae are welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th December</td>
<td>Christmas Fair Senior School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th December</td>
<td>Circle of Friends drinks at the Panton Arms: 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th December</td>
<td>Festive Fizz - Drinks reception for alumnae who left in the last five years i.e. since 2012. This event will be held in the Hadmistry's study from 7.00pm – 9.00pm.</td>
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Alumnae are warmly invited to these events. For more information please contact Emma Whittley, Alumnae Officer, at ewhitteley@stmaryscambridge.co.uk.

Congratulations

Anneka (née Lipscombe, 1996–2001) and Andrew Stockdale are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter Margot Olive on 7th July 2017 who joins big sister Beatrix Ivy aged 2.

In Memoriam

We remember in our thoughts and prayers those who have died and the family and friends who mourn them.

Jaifieda Pestell (née Ashby) 1945 – 1953 died on 23 December 2016
Patricia Hilda May Silk (née Atkins) 1941 – 1946 died on 13 July 2017

Keeping in touch...

Please keep in touch and tell us what you are up to now by emailing ewhitteley@stmaryscambridge.co.uk and by joining our dedicated Pastonian Facebook group - www.facebook.com/groups/239614822750910/ to look for lost friends, share memories, help keep the younger members engaged, career mentoring and more! Just search for The Pastonian Association, St Mary’s School, Cambridge the next time you’re on Facebook.