

# The **PASTONIAN** Association Newsletter

*a newsletter dedicated to all former students of St Mary's School, Cambridge*

THE  
**FIVE** ARE TOGETHER  
AGAIN!



*Once a St Mary's Girl  
Always a St Mary's Girl!*

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**PASTONIAN ASSOCIATION**  
St Mary's School, Cambridge

Issue 2 | Spring Term 2014

# Headmistress'

## welcome and introduction



**Charlotte Avery,**  
Headmistress

Friendship is a beautiful thing. One of the greatest gifts that St Mary's School, Cambridge can bestow on its student is the opportunity to create life-long friendships that traverse race, religion, social class and culture.

Just before Christmas, 25 recent leavers returned for Festive Fizz and at the other end of the spectrum is the group of school friends who in their 70s and 80s still meet regularly for coffee at Hotel Felix, Cambridge - such long-lived friendship is something to cherish and celebrate. 'The Famous Five' was a fun series of stories about four human friends and their dog whose exploits were filled with mystery, adventure, ginger ale and hearty breakfasts, spirited team work and daring leadership, laughter and support. I do hope that you enjoy reading about our 'Famous Five' Pastonians who exemplify such positive qualities today, back as teachers at St Mary's School, Cambridge.

Our values are articulated and lived out on a day-to-day basis through our 12 characteristics of a Mary Ward school. Our annual magazine, The Magnolian, has used these characteristics as chapter headings over the last couple of years to structure the account of the school year. This year we are concentrating on two characteristics, "respecting self, and supporting each other throughout the school." Both of these characteristics are necessary in order to be able to sustain a genuine friendship.

Core values of warmth and kindness go beyond immediate friendships forged in school. St Mary's School, Cambridge has always had a reputation for generous and spirited charity

fundraising and this tradition continues as evinced by last year's total of over £20,000. Last term alone, the Sixth Form raised funds for Jeans for Genes, held a Macmillan Coffee Morning and funded gift bags containing gloves, socks, toiletries, chocolates etc. for the homeless attending Jimmy's Nightshelter at Christmas. In addition, staff raised funds for CAFOD world gifts instead of sending Christmas cards, enabling us to support clean water supplies for a couple of families and tools for two apprenticeship schemes. Much other charity fundraising took place for CAFOD via a Hunger Lunch, activities on International Day of the Girl and for Children in Need, as well as other fundraising for the Poppy Appeal, CAMFED as well as the CJ sisters' pastoral work in Nepal, Cuba and Ukraine. Last term in total we raised £9,000 through charitable fundraising. Very movingly this ethos, inculcated at school, continues into adult life. We remain in contact with various Pastonians carrying out wonderful service for the greater good and this edition reports on the work of Elisabeth Bailie in Uganda on dental projects and Rosie Brock in Sierra Leone supporting the treatment of Ebola.

Enjoy this edition and do cherish your friendships, particularly those nurtured at St Mary's School, Cambridge; why not reconnect with a friend or two and come back together to one or more of our social occasions for Pastonians listed on the back cover. You will receive a very warm welcome!



### *"Women in time will come to do much"* Rachel Gleeson, (1997-2002)

In 2005 I went to Durham to read Theology. On my first day I spotted a St Mary's girl across the room, not someone from my year, nor someone I knew particularly well, but I made a bee line and started a conversation, it was easy and comforting; a friendship began.

Six years ago I moved back 'home' to Cambridge. I was scared I wouldn't know anyone, as all my friends, I thought, were in London, or moved elsewhere. On attending a Pastonian Association Christmas cocktail party, I rekindled friendships with old friends, with whom I'd merely lost touch. (It happens! Friends move away, we all meet new people, our time is taken with university work, new jobs- it's not personal!). What was amazing was how easy those friendships were, how it felt like we'd always been friends (well we had! Studying, gap years, new jobs and distance had just got in the way).

When embarking on my first job I soon found two more St Mary's girls (none of us attended school together) who were colleagues and soon became friends. Friendship can be a funny thing,

it has its ups and downs, what's clear is how that St Mary's connection brings us together, it's a part of who we are. It doesn't matter when you attended St Mary's, or 'the convent' (as some prefer to say), if you get talking to other Pastonians there is a connection, a common ground. I haven't ventured far, but now find myself working in Bedford, with you guessed it, another St Mary's 'girl.' As soon as we realised, the conversation buzzed. I hope this trend doesn't stop!

St Mary's is a community, where mutual respect can be found between students and teachers. Many of us stay in touch with a small group of one or two friends, perhaps even with a few teachers. That care and friendship, however, extends way beyond our close friendship circles; that friendship and care is something

that we see St Mary's girls extending to the world. Be it extending a hand to someone who needs to be held, or lending an ear to someone who needs listening to, or a voice to be heard. St Mary's girls past and present give time and energy, support charities and should be proud of their friendships that extend beyond Bateman Street.

In the words of Winnie the Pooh, "You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes". Some friendships are easy, like dropping an old friend an email or call, perhaps giving time to current students venturing on a decision or career. Some are more challenging, perhaps demanding on our time, or take effort to pursue; these friendships should be celebrated and encouraged.



### *"Creating a positive climate for alumnae growth and development"* Emma Whittle, Alumnae Officer

Having been a part of the Development Office for just a few months, I have been overwhelmed by the warmth, kindness and utter talent emanating from Pastonians and their friendships. There has been so much going on this term, it is difficult to know where to start. One way of keeping track with events is to become a member of the The Pastonian Facebook group page which is now up and running and is a great way to find out about forthcoming Pastonian events. We also hope that this Pastonian News provides you with an exciting, uplifting and enjoyable update about women who are kindred spirits, united by a common schooling.

I am sure that you will be interested to read updates from Pastonians with such diverse talents ranging from Rosie Brock and some of her amazing stories from ETC in Sierra Leone, Elisabeth Bailie who has been raising funds for a dental treatment centre she has founded in Uganda. Also Louise Glazebrook has recently published a book on dog training and is to attend the St Mary's School, Cambridge Dog Show as a judge. As ever I am delighted to hear from any Pastonians with updates on news - please do get in touch and connect.

## School news



### Happy Birthday Sister Christopher

Our life span is seventy years – eighty for those who are strong or “more to those who are blessed”

17 December is a special day for St Mary's School, Cambridge: it is the birthday not only of Pope Francis but also Sister Christopher. As a former student, Head Girl and Headmistress of St Mary's School, Cambridge, Sister Christopher embodies what it is to be a 'Mary Ward girl!' On this 17 December, the CJ communities in Kwekwe gathered at Hospital Road in Zimbabwe for birthday celebrations for Sister Christopher which started with a thanksgiving Mass. Sr Christopher had a wonderful time with the local community.

### Fruits of fundraising

Thanks to the generosity of our school community we were able to send a gift of £2,500 to the sisters, and Sister Mercy has informed us that they will spend the donation on school fees for the girls and staff salaries. Children in the UK are lucky to enjoy easy access to education and it is always a reminder for our girls to be aware of how fortunate they are and be inspired in their charity efforts to suppose those for whom accessing education is not as straightforward.

In turn, here in Cambridge, donations to the Sister Christopher Bursary Fund enable us to continue to offer the benefits of a Mary Ward education at St Mary's School. Since announcing the establishment of the Fund in our last Pastonian Newsletter we have been thrilled to have received several very thoughtful and generous donations ranging from £50 to £1,000. These gifts enable us to continue to offer Bursary support and we would like to thank these kind, pioneer donors. If you would like to find out more please contact Emma Whittlely on 01223 224126.



## Mary Ward Celebrations

### St Mary's School, Cambridge celebrates Mary Ward Day: 23 January 2015

Throughout the week, and in particular on 23rd January, we celebrated the birthday of the school's foundress, Mary Ward. Across the school, numerous activities took place in celebration of her inspirational life. On 22 January, the Pastonian Association hosted a talk by Sister Gemma Simmonds who gave a wonderful insight into the current work of the CJ sisters. It was a very happy opportunity for alumnae, current and former parents, governors, and staff, and even a prospective student and her mother, to come together to hear more about the legacy of Mary Ward. The talk was followed by a light buffet, giving guests the opportunity to chat into the afternoon.

One very positive outcome of the morning is that Kay Dodsworth, School Lay Chaplain, is re-starting a 'Friends of Mary Ward' group in Cambridge. The group's aim is to study the life, work and writings of Mary Ward which enhances the members' spiritual lives and helps them support each other. Hope Gilbert, a former Deputy Head and a member of this group is delighted that this has been rekindled and described how in the past some local members have met and visited, The Bar Convent and the St Bede's Pastoral Centre in York, as well as having organised a trip to Loyola in Spain to attend a conference of lay members of the Mary Ward Associations.

The following day, a special Mass was held in school and Sister Frances Orchard spoke eloquently about vocation – a subject as relevant to our students now as it was for Mary Ward, who 'heard her call' in the very ordinary situation of drying her hair. Whether our girls aspire to be Nobel Prize winners, people who will bind up the broken hearted

or mothers, their vocation will be important, yet the decision making process won't always be a clear one. When Mary Ward received her call from God through her 'Glory Vision', she couldn't explain what had happened when she was called, other than hearing the words 'Glory, Glory, Glory' and realising her calling would be for God's glory but not knowing anything more concrete at that point.

Based on our foundress' characteristics, St Mary's School, Cambridge invests in its girls' characters as much as their academic achievements, inspiring the girls to be more, not just to have more. We promote coping effectively with failure, as Mary Ward did, never losing joy or peace in her work despite suffering setbacks such as imprisonment, disgrace, and poverty to the point whereon her death bed, she exclaimed 'Fie fie! Why look sad? Let us sing and thank God for all His loving kindness.' Sister Frances answered the question about how to recognise your calling by saying you will know when you radiate joy. She ended with the story of a girl, seen throwing starfish one by one back in to the sea, who answered the question 'how on earth do you think you're going to make a difference? The problem is just too big!' by explaining, 'I made a difference to that one.'

After lunch, our Senior School students joined together in their form groups for some light-hearted celebrations: cake competitions, afternoon tea, and dressing up in Mary Ward costumes. The week was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge, reflect upon and celebrate the great work to which Mary Ward committed her life and the principles for which our foundress stood.

## News from our Pastonians

### Elizabeth Bailie (2001-2006)



Elizabeth Bailie was a student at St Mary's from 2001 – 2006. After 5 happy years at St Mary's, 2 years at Sixth Form in Saffron Walden and a gap year with 3 months volunteering in Madagascar, Elizabeth started her degree in International Development with French at Exeter University. In 2011, during her second year, an opportunity of a lifetime fell into her lap. One of Elizabeth's friends had recently returned from volunteering in Uganda and had met Jhon, a Ugandan dentist who had dreamt of starting an organisation to help the most vulnerable people in his community.

While Elizabeth and her friends (including ex. St Mary's students Jane Farrington and Rachel Armitage) were busy creating a website, a Facebook page and fundraising, back in Uganda, Jhon had recruited over 100 Ugandan professionals and non-professionals who were willing to give up their time for free to help others around them. Mwenya Uganda was growing from strength to strength. By 2012, with the help of a St Mary's non-uniform day, we had raised enough money to pay for Mwenya's first mobile clinic. A team of over 60 Ugandan volunteers travelled to Bussi Island, on Lake Victoria and spent a weekend providing free medical and dental treatment to over 900 people with no other access to medical treatment.

"It was all worth it: as we left the clinic site under the stars, children were running after our motorbike shouting 'Mweennyyaa!' We knew we had helped to start something incredible. Mwenya Uganda is not about Westerners coming into an African nation and changing everything. It's about facilitating the Ugandans who have had these dreams for years, but due to lack of funds, they have had no way of turning these dreams into reality."

It was during Elizabeth's visit to Uganda in 2012, when she was faced with the unending challenge of fundraising, the Mwenya team decided to create a very different approach to charity, to combine social business and charity.

With the aim of being totally independent from large Western funding bodies and really empowering local people on the ground, the team set their minds to building social businesses in Uganda. These businesses invest 100% of their profits into NGO Mwenya Uganda while providing employment to local people, putting the power into the hands of trained and trusted local Directors. Mwenya's aim is to empower local people to find local solutions to local problems. At the beginning of 2013, Mwenya took over a permanent dental clinic which now runs as a social enterprise, raising money for Mwenya on the ground, in Uganda.

### Rosie Brock (1997-2003)

Rosie Brock has kept us very well informed of her work as a medic in an Ebola Treatment Centre in Sierra Leone. Here are a few excerpts from her emails:-

Ibrahim was a 13 year old boy whose siblings had all died and who was in a quarantined house. We admitted him on Saturday and he had diarrhoea and a fever - early signs of ebola? I went in to see him on his first evening on the unit - he looked well but was complaining about abdominal pain. The team have been mocking me ever since about the misunderstanding that ensued - communication is not straightforward in PPE and we are using translators - I asked if he had any concerns and I thought he said "I want you to kill me" so reassured him that we wouldn't do that. After we'd left the tent, I clarified with the translator that in fact he had said "I want you to cure me". Oops. However his abdominal pain resolved instantly with judicious prescription of paracetamol and chocolate, his symptoms cleared up quickly with oral antibiotics, and serial PCR tests over 48 hours were negative. Whilst waiting for his PCR results we taught him across the fence how to juggle, and we were able to discharge him back to his relieved parents on Christmas Eve. We're still waiting

for our first ebola survivor - looks like being a race between a young man called David and a woman called Aminata - I'm trying to not get emotionally involved in case either of them deteriorates unexpectedly."

One other quick story - "Happy Christmas! I hope you're enjoying good times with family and friends and have had good celebrations these last few days. We had a fun time as the NHS team - I baked mince pies, we had carols at the ETC; our hotel kitchen staff tried extremely hard to produce a Christmas dinner, which definitely contained recognisable roast potatoes and chicken legs... New NHS reinforcements arrived last weekend bearing Christmas pudding to add to our celebrations, and we played silly games, drank beer and ate Pringles and Toblerone. And to top it all off I got a personal Christmas card from Jeremy Hunt. We've been open for exactly a week now, though it feels like far longer. In general the opening has gone well with hitches but no calamities. The international and local team all remain fit and well and as far as we know have had no exposures. So much to be thankful for. Of course we are staying extremely vigilant and I find my own anxiety levels tend to fluctuate day-to-day but in general I'm feeling careful and calm.

The problem with telling stories is that they're all a bit heavy, so sorry about that (although BBC Bristol did ask one of the team for a "lighthearted ebola story" the other day...). The patients who have made the most impact on me personally are Feremusu and Al-Hassan - 23 day old twins who were admitted on Sunday afternoon. They were delivered by Caesarean section and their mother then became unwell, initially thought to be puerperal sepsis, but she was subsequently found to have ebola. Unfortunately she had been breastfeeding the babies throughout her illness and she then died. Their grandmother brought them in to the ETC. We ran an ebola PCR test as neonates are known to present differently with ebola - often not developing the systemic inflammatory response and symptoms which mark the beginning of the disease course in adults, and sure enough they were both infected with sky-high viral loads. When I started my shift in the evening Al-Hassan had developed abnormal posture and seizures; and then they both developed haemorrhagic symptoms and died within a few hours. It was appalling to see them deteriorate so quickly with really no available interventions.



5th Year at St Bede's

Many years later  
Head Teacher at St Teresa's

## Thalia Milton (Edmondson) 1958 - 1964

### A circuitous route to success

The train journey was exciting with the big puffing engine, as we sped from Newmarket to Cambridge. The 'big girls' were in charge walking far too quickly for my little legs, but it was an adventure!

We were moving house from Newmarket to Cambridge. I had left my cosy little nursery school to join St Mary's. It was a big wrench leaving friends and the wonderful Wendy House in which I had played with my imaginary friends. Unfortunately, my start at St Mary's didn't go well. The room was too big; we had to do writing and numbers and worst of all there was no Wendy House.

In my own little way I rebelled against this new start. I sulked and showed little interest in work. As the years went by I made myself quite unpopular with my lack of effort and cheeky antics. My favourite game was to pat my ears against my head which made a satisfying slapping sound – looking around with annoyance the nuns tried to find the source of the sound!

My saviour was the PE teacher, Mrs Salt. At last I had found something I could do well; I could excel and wanted to excel. I somersaulted off the trampet, did 'longfly' over the box, loving every moment of every lesson. This was it, I was going to be a PE teacher; there could be nothing better in the world! The classroom was still a place of darkness for me; I did as little as possible. My dear parents persevered and I went into the senior school, but having been found climbing over the toilets and locking the doors one too many times, it was suggested I leave and go to St Bede's where I may fair better!

I was thrilled with the change and found myself doing surprisingly well. I went from strength to strength, particularly with sport and was thrilled to be awarded an Outward Bound scholarship when I was 14. There began my love of mountains and the great outdoors. I continued to flourish, went onto Thornton College for Sixth Form and gained a place at Bedford PE College. Since then I have taught secondary PE in independent and maintained schools: moved to PE in the primary phase; become Head of a Junior School within an 'all through' school and Assistant Head of the whole school. I've taken hundreds of children on adventures trips and a World Challenge to Sri Lanka; trekked in the Himalayas, run numerous half marathons and staggered around the London Marathon. Many years later I am now looking forward to retirement as I leave St Teresa's Catholic Independent School in Princes Risborough, where I am Head Teacher. I undoubtedly gained poise and manners from St Mary's, a joy for life from St Bede's and maturity from all my subsequent experiences - who would have thought it!

## How things have changed

# Famous Five - Five are Together Again!

It can be no coincidence that currently we have five members of staff who attended St Mary's School, Cambridge as pupils and have returned to teach here. They are **Anna Ladds (nee Malig)**, **Christina Klimaszewska**, **Emma Levy**, **Julia Hutchison (nee Luckes)** and **Ruth Beer (nee Gilmore)**.

### Anna Ladds – Head of Technology writes....

When I was a student here I never thought that one day I would return to the school as a teacher. I always knew that I wanted to teach and had loved making things so Textiles teaching as a career seemed an easy choice for me. Sister Prisca was my Textiles teacher (although the subject was called 'Needlework' in those days!) and it is very appropriate that she is remembered through the annual Sister Prisca Prize for Textiles. I have always taught in the Cambridge area, and mostly part-time while my three children were growing up. I started teaching at St Mary's in 1994 and the Textiles rooms were located in what is now the Arts Centre. Seven years ago I was asked to plan for a Food Technology room, something not taught at St Mary's before, so it was a great challenge to be able to start this new department.

Technology subjects have changed a lot in the last 20 years and we now do more designing using computer software. When I was a student we used to do a lot of hand-sewing and I remember making a counted-thread table mat, straight skirt and pale blue checked blouse. We did not have any Food Technology lessons (or 'cooking' lessons as it would have been called) so I think it is important that we are able to teach this subject now. Today, both Textiles and Food are part of the Technology Department which also includes ICT, Computing and STEM clubs, so there is a wide choice of options for our current students. We even put on our own fashion show, organised by Year 9 students who wear their own designs on the catwalk.

I think our students are very lucky to have so much choice today and it has been a great pleasure to have been a part of the Technology Department at St Mary's and to have experienced the growth and development of the school. Having been a student here, I can still identify with the pupils' experience as they start at St Mary's and then develop into young adults over the years. It is their energy and enthusiasm which makes my job so rewarding.

### Ruth Beer – Joint Head of Year 9

It was never my intention to return to St Mary's once, let alone twice, but on both occasions it felt like 'coming home'. The first time was as a Newly Qualified Teacher and I spent a very happy two and a half years with many of the staff who had taught me. I have returned more recently to quite a different school; with the arrival of iPads and smart boards in lessons (although I have found my name in amongst a set of text books that are still being used), beautiful new buildings and a smart new uniform, much has changed, but it is lovely to see that St Mary's is still the same caring community, full of laughing friends, where hard work and personal achievements are celebrated. It is particularly special to be working closely alongside four other 'old girls' – two of whom are fellow Heads of Year.



Christina

Anna

Ruth

Julia

Emma

When I was at St Mary's, the Sixth Form review (we were the year that sang 'IBVM' along to the tune of 'YMCA'), the Fun Run, Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and the Carol Service were all highlights – and events that formed strong memories. Back then, we also had the Christmas Fun Fair which consisted largely of Sixth Formers scaring everyone with the Ghost Train in the cellar below current Room 17, and Years 10 and 11 feeding the entire school with 100s of toasted sandwiches that were made in their classrooms with machines that definitely wouldn't pass any health and safety laws today. We, like the students today, were told on a fairly regular basis to roll our skirts down. There was also some strange fashion that involved pulling our sleeves over our hands. Maybe the school was just cold back then! I was lucky enough to have the wonderful Miss Spore and the lovely Mrs Dodsworth as teachers – and returning to work alongside them has been a real privilege. We sang hymns along to Mr Benziger's accompaniment, which at the time was the height of un-cool but now I'm able to belt out ('Tell out my Soul...', 'He who would valiant be...', 'I saw the grass, I saw the trees...'). Mobile 'phones and iPads hadn't been invented (it was that long ago), but we had a lot of fun without them.

I feel very lucky to be someone who loves their job and feel proud that three of my very good friends became teachers because they said I was the only person they knew who enjoyed their job. I particularly love helping and seeing students achieve their potential – along with the amazing creativity the students have. Girls – you inspire me daily!

Whether you enjoy your time at school or not, there is no getting away from the fact that it is a significant part of your life, when you are maturing and becoming yourself. Much stays with you from your school days, whether it is a hymn that is sung, a Shakespeare play that is studied or a game that is played. My best friends are still my school friends – and twenty-five years on, we still see each other regularly and our children are now special friends.

This is what I hope for today's students – that not only will they receive a fantastic education and an inner compass with which they can navigate life's challenges but that they will leave St Mary's with happy memories and friendships that will last a life time.

### Julia Hutchison – Joint Head of Year 9

Returning to St Mary's after 18 years was a daunting experience as I was worried that it would change the incredible memories that I had. I attended St Mary's Junior school (Brookside), the Senior School and Sixth Form so spent many days at St Mary's. I loved every minute of it and memories include the sponsored wine gum suck, the ghost train in the cellar (which has scared me for life and I can never go on one again), the Sixth Form Review and many Geography trips. School was definitely hard work then as well as today and the yearly examination week was dreaded each year. I feel sorry for the girls every time I send them away to revise!

Miss Spore was my geography teacher then and is my Head of Department today. I still call her Miss Spore and revert to being immature around her as I was then. The teachers were definitely a highlight when I was a student and there is no doubt that their role inspired me to be a teacher. I feel so lucky to love my job and work with the girls at St Mary's. It is a daily pleasure and feels like coming 'home'. So many physical spaces have changed but the heart of the

school is as strong as ever. It is not just a place of academic excellence but one where girls can truly be who they want to be. Its diversity and quirkiness was evident when I was at school and these aspects are still there today. I am an identical twin and we used to trick the teachers and go to each other's lessons. The teachers never realised!

The friendships that I created at St Mary's are as strong today as when I left 18 years ago. Each year we go to Cornwall with our best friends from St Mary's and it is now a group of 17 as we all have children. We have gained friendships for life and some of the friends I made at St Mary's are Godparents to my two boys. There is no doubt that St Mary's creates an environment where friendships flourish and are real. It is like creating another family with whom you encounter both good and bad times but support one another all the way. Currently as joint Head of Year 9, I see these friendships forming and admire the girls' maturity to stand by one another through hard times and accept people for who they are. I only wish that I could send my two boys here and I will always strive to provide them with an education that is as good as the one I had at St Mary's and memories that make me smile daily.

### Emma Levy – Director of Music

I studied at St Mary's Senior School from 1992-1999 and I have many fond memories of my time as a student here, especially at Sixth Form level when I became a weekly boarder. At A Level, I enjoyed studying Music with Mr Benziger and Mrs Toller, French with Mme Francis and Mme Braid, and Italian with Signora Cooksey. I then read Music and Education Studies at the University of Cambridge, completed a PGCE in Secondary Music and taught locally and abroad, in Italy, before returning to Cambridge.

With its supportive, family-oriented atmosphere and Mary Ward values such as: 'pursuing cheerfulness' and 'valuing friendship' (two values which really resonate with me), I knew I'd enjoy returning to St Mary's as a teacher. Whilst some of my own teachers had retired, and some improvements had been made to the fabric of the building by the time I joined the teaching staff in 2006, I was pleased to note that the charming atmosphere of St Mary's remains unchanged. I was also pleased to see that some of the more unique (and quirky) St Mary's traditions that I held dear as a student have been preserved: the Fun Run, the Sixth Form Review, and the Dog Show raising money for the annual Lourdes pilgrimage are still regular fixtures in our school calendar.

To return to the Mary Ward value of valuing friendships, I really cherish the friendships which I forged during my days at St Mary's and, more than 20 years on, the girls I met whilst in form 1R (Year 7) are still my very best friends. Even though several are scattered a considerable distance from Cambridge (one friend now lives in Scotland, another in South Africa), we're in regular contact, and I see those a bit closer to home every school holiday. It's always riotous fun when we manage a "full house" reunion (usually at one of the group's weddings!) and I'm eagerly anticipating the gang coming together this summer to help me celebrate my own nuptials. Amongst our friendship group, many of us are Godparents to each other's children. Last summer, I was honoured to be invited to become Godmother to baby Emilia, daughter of my dear St Mary's friend Hannah and her husband Chris.



### The Galloping Girls.....

Lucinda Eyre (now Lucy Howells) who was at the school from 1980-1988 and head girl from 1987-88 has sent us an update. Lucy was formerly a lawyer and then for many years, worked in HR at an international law firm but now works locally for an international educational agency. She lives in Kent with her husband and four children.

### Festive Fizz

On Friday 19 December 25 girls attended the Festive Fizz party in Charlotte Avery's festively decorated office. The invitation to Festive Fizz was extended to Pastonians who had left St Mary's from 2010 onwards and many of them arrived 'home' directly from either university or employment and it was a great way to start the Christmas holidays and to re-connect with old friends. All the girls left with a small gift from Father Christmas which caused huge excitement and great laughter!



## PASS Society

*(Past Parents, current Parents, Pupils and Pastonians' Arts, Sports, Science Society)*

Friday 5 June 2015	The Origins and Early History of the National Gallery, London - a one-hour guided tour  Meet in the Sainsbury Wing Entrance Foyer of the National Gallery at 7.00pm for a guided tour  Followed by dinner at the Trafalgar Room, National Gallery from 8.00pm  For ticket prices and availability please contact Emma Whittley
Saturday 27 June 2015	MCC Cricket at Lord's – Oxford vs. Cambridge Further details to come including ticket prices
Wednesday 11 November 2015	Encountering heaven on earth: Spencer's war-time experiences glorified through faith and art - 50 minute illustrated talk  7.00pm at St Mary's School, Cambridge with Q&A session, followed by a wine reception

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 30 April 2015	The Annual Sports Dinner – dinner and a talk by Gillian Lindsay, Olympic silver medallist and Britain's most successful sculler. Tickets will be available at £15 for adults and £7.50 for students
Saturday 18 April 2015	The Pastonian Association Annual Luncheon with guest speaker Linda Fairbrother, outgoing High Sheriff: Women in Leadership and Service. Tickets are £20 and available from Emma Whittley on 01223 224126
Wednesday 13 May 2015	Cream Tea celebration for the Brookside Sisters in our chapel followed by Mass
Saturday 13 June 2015	Cava and cupcakes garden party for A Level alumnae
Sunday 21 June 2015	Family Day Reunion – a chance for Pastonians to bring their families back to school for an afternoon with tours of the Junior School and its grounds
September 2015 (date to be confirmed)	School Reunion Dinner for Pastonians who left in 1940 or 1980. Reconnect with lost school friends and share memories

If you would like to attend any of our events please contact **Emma Whittley** on 01223 224126 or [alumnae@stmaryscambridge.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@stmaryscambridge.co.uk) to book your place.

## Keeping in touch

Please keep in touch and tell us what you are up to now by emailing [alumnae@stmaryscambridge.co.uk](mailto:alumnae@stmaryscambridge.co.uk) and by joining our dedicated Pastonian Facebook group - [www.facebook.com/groups/239614822750910](http://www.facebook.com/groups/239614822750910) to look for lost friends and share memories. Career mentoring and more! Just search for The Pastonian Association, St Mary's School, Cambridge the next time you're on Facebook.

## Congratulations to...



**Natalie Stops** who became engaged to **Dr Yuen Man** on 6 December 2014 and they are planning to marry in 2016



**Helen Chapman** to **Tim** became engaged on 25 December 2013 and are planning to marry in 2015

**James and Marianne Hanbury (nee Nelson)** are delighted to announce the birth of Alfie Rupert Hanbury on 14 December 2014



**Rosanna and Oliver Diaper (nee Percival)** are delighted to announce the birth of Willow Sarah Diaper on 14 December 2014



## In memoriam

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

**Gilliam Higgins**, November 2011

**Christine Brooks**, 23 November 2014

**Thea Wykes**, 8 January 2015

**Ann Sherman**, 21 January 2015

*Requiescant in pace*