



Johnian News

Issue 9

Lent Term 2001

Johnian support for Malawi college

The College's South Africa Fund for Education (SAFE), which is run by students, has pledged a significant sum in support of Zomba Theological College in Southern Malawi. This funding has been matched by a donation from St John's itself, raising the £25,000 required for the building of up to 16 small two-bedroomed units for families of students at Zomba Theological College.

Zomba Theological College (ZTC) was set up in 1977 and is affiliated to the University of Malawi. It has about 90 Presbyterians and Anglicans in training for ministry. The College has been expanding rapidly and, as a result, first-year students from all over Malawi, and beyond, have had to leave their families behind in order to train for the ministry. Their wives and children join them in the second-year and the wives benefit from a full programme of their own. For some, this is the first formal education they have received.

The Reverend Rodney Schofield (BA 1964), a United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel missionary who has been tutor and Director of Research at Zomba Theological College for just over a year, appealed to St John's for assistance. The College's branch of SAFE, a University-wide charity which raises funds for worthwhile educational projects, decided to help. St John's has been involved in SAFE since 1986.

Nina Champion, a third year law student, is President of SAFE at St John's. She commented '...the training of clergy is significant not only for the churches but also for the local communities. Clergy are often the prime movers in establishing new schools and a number of priests who have recently left Zomba have set up new initiatives. This work is crucial as out of 5 million children in Malawi under 16 years of age, no more than 8% complete their secondary education and fewer than 2% gain their school certificate.'

Rodney Schofield said 'at Zomba I hope we are preparing ordinands to be real spiritual and pastoral community leaders, able to inspire faith, hope and love in their people, sufficient to face the many challenges.'

As well as this financial support, plans are in place for a recent graduate of St John's College to spend time working at Zomba Theological College later this year. The College Chapel has also forged a close connection in the hope of enhancing the spiritual development of ordinands in Zomba, and of assisting in the purchase of books.



Some of the students' wives and children at choir practice

St John's College has many connections with Africa, ranging from Colenso Scholarships linked with the University of Natal to Bradlow Scholarships for doctoral studies and an annual Colenso Lectureship. Recently the College has also made a financial contribution to an Appeal from the Cambridge Female Educational Trust (CAMFED) who have projects in Africa directed towards girls from poor rural families. ☘



College news

has been in place since the beginning of the academic year whereby the Boat Club of Robinson College is accommodated in the LMBC Boathouse.

Karen Hartshorn, the Captain, thanked the College for its support of the Club and awarded Colonel Richard Robinson, former Domestic Bursar, Honorary Membership of the LMBC in recognition of his work on behalf of the Club.

The event was attended by past and current members of the LMBC and Robinson, as well as a number of guests. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK, the Bumps were cancelled after three days of racing so there was no rowing to be watched in the afternoon. ☸



Following the success of the first set of recordings on the Naxos label, the College Choir has signed a new contract with the record company for a further four albums. The signing took place in front of music critics and local retailers at a reception in the Master's Lodge to launch the fourth CD of the first series. Christopher Robinson, the Organist, signed the contract on behalf of the College, and Klaus Heymann, Managing Director of Naxos Records, signed on behalf of Naxos.



Klaus Heymann and Christopher Robinson signing the new contract

results bear eloquent witness to our commitment to

choral music – and indeed to the excellence of these performances.’

The first recording of the new series was made in March and features the music of Gerald Finzi. The three remaining recordings will be of works by William Walton, Charles Villiers Stanford and Kenneth Leighton.

More success for the College Choir: the recording of music by Herbert Howells won the Cannes Classical Award for 20th Century Music at the Midem Conference in January. Midem is the world's leading music market and the award was made in partnership with the most important musical magazines. ☸



Shirley and Christopher Robinson with the Midem Award

The third Hinsley Memorial Lecture took place on Tuesday 6 March 2001 and was given by Denis Healey. Lord Healey gave an entertaining talk entitled ‘The new world disorder’. The next Hinsley Memorial Lecture is expected to take place in March 2002. ☸

The Johnian Society Lecture took place on Wednesday 28 February and was given by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, Honorary Fellow of the College and formerly Fellow and College Lecturer in Economics. He spoke about ‘The Monetary Policy Committee - a constitutional innovation?’. ☸

The College has elected six new Title A (Research) Fellows. They are: Stephen Andrew Butterfill (BA, BPhil, St Catherine's College, Oxford) for Philosophy; Santanu Das (BA Calcutta; BA St John's College) for English Literature; Laura Maria Herz (Diploma, Bonn;



Homeward bound

The Lent Term 2000 edition of Johnian News featured an article about Ben Cocker and Alistair Boyd who intended to cycle from Cape Town to Sheffield in aid of the Sheffield Children's Hospital and the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town. They are now well over halfway through their 10,000 mile ride and, having set off at the end of July 2000, they hope to make it back to the UK in time for May Week 2001.

"All my windows and my doors will be open for you." Such was the welcome we had grown accustomed to receiving and, although not what one would expect in the UK, very appropriate here as we descended from the highlands of Ethiopia into the hot dry plains of The Sudan.

After our Christmas break we knew that we would be facing our toughest cycling with bad roads, deserts, high temperatures and mountains all in abundance. The rocky road through Northern Kenya, where banditry is rife, forced us to cycle from one police compound to the next, seeing nothing but barren scorched earth in between. Then we found Tarmac again on entering Ethiopia but the joy was short-lived as our days were now all about the ups and downs of the mountains confronting us.

Our most memorable day of ascent (and the preceding descent) was the 1500m deep Blue Nile gorge and, although slightly marred by the presence of some goading, stone-throwing young delinquents, undoubtedly one of the most magnificent views we have had. We felt that after making it through all this unscathed, and after some very long days on our bikes, we deserved a rest. With this in mind we set out to explore only a small fraction of Ethiopia's rich Orthodox history with visits by boat to some of Lake Tana's 10th century monasteries and by plane to

Lalibela where there are a dozen 12th century churches hewn straight from the surrounding rock and set into the ground.

But now, after seven months on the road, we have made it into Sudan, the one country that was always going to be the most likely stumbling block on our overland route from Cape Town to Cairo and then through Europe to the UK. Our bicycles and bodies were still in good working order – all we needed was the patience to deal with the immigration and security officials throughout the country. At the border crossing from Ethiopia into Sudan, having got up early to try and take advantage of the lower temperature, we had a four hour wait while various people either arrived late or indulged in breakfast, typically from about 9am to 11am, seemingly a Sudanese institution and one we were to come up against again and again when dealing with officialdom. Finally we were through, but the mercury had hit 40°C in the shade and was still climbing. We stopped for our siesta, a routine the sun seems determined to force us, not unwillingly, to adopt for most of the remaining stretch through Africa.

From relative civilisation and technology here in Khartoum we will now continue back into the deserts that we have become a little more used to and then along the Nile Valley all the way up to Cairo. Our only difficulty after this will be getting used to life in Europe after our quite unforgettable times in Africa, although we're sure that it won't take long to adjust to all the luxuries that we've been pining for.

A huge thank you must go out to all who have helped us along the way, both here in Africa and at home in the UK. If you want to find out more about our adventures you can visit www.thecapetownconnection.co.uk or email us: ben_and_alistair@yahoo.com



Alistair and Ben being entertained by the locals



Refurbishing the College

The Maintenance Department has been extremely busy over the last year or so, continuing with the refurbishment programme for New Court, as well as carrying out general maintenance work for the College. Here Stan Moorhouse, Superintendent of Buildings, writes about some of the work that has been undertaken.

Having exhausted virtually all rooms in the older courts that could be en-suited, we have now moved west of the river into New Court. In the six-month period from July 2000 to the end of the year the 21 sets in H New Court were refurbished. In addition the toilet area adjacent to the Fisher Building (changed from a set when the Fisher Building was built) was restored to residential accommodation and is now suitable for use by the disabled. As with the previous refurbishment programmes we installed a toilet, shower (approximately one in ten sets has a bath) and wash basin, and on this Staircase a passive ventilation system was installed for the first time. Gyps are upgraded; each set rewired and brought up to modern Fire Certificate standard.

Since the commencement of the refurbishment programme in 1995 the Department has now completed 87 sets. A Staircase New Court is next on the programme, beginning in July 2001, followed in 2002 by B Staircase. E Staircase New Court - due in 2003 - is the last of the communal bath houses which means no more Junior Members trailing disconsolately around the College in search of a bathroom. It is for others to determine whether this will reduce the 'character building' element of College life!

Early in the New Year we commenced a major refitting of the bar and the toilet area in K Staircase Second Court. The whole area was gutted, the room extended and an enlarged bar built on the centre of the southern wall. Two distinctly separate areas have been formed, a lounge in the eastern portion (carpeted and non-smoking) and to the western end a 'tap room' (as we Derbyshire people would call it). In this area the original mahogany floor was stripped and repolished. In addition to the two fitted seating areas there are stools, tables and bar billiards. As with everything, of course, there is a downside - rumour has it that



Work in progress in the Bar



The finished Bar with the stools, tables and bar billiards in the background

the prices in the bar are to rise to meet all the expense!

We have also totally refitted the men's and women's toilets, with the extra provision of a disabled facility. Later in the year it is intended to replace the existing tiled floor in the lobby with Yorkstone flooring. ☒



Notices

Thanks to the work of David Whitaker (BA 1954), the first two volumes of the **History of the LMBC** are now available in facsimile form. Volume I is priced at £30 a copy and covers the years 1825 to 1926, and Volume II costs £20 and covers the years 1926 to 1956. The two volumes can be purchased for £45. If you would like to buy a copy, please send a cheque made payable to the Johnian Society to The Secretary, the Johnian Society, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP. ☼

Dates for your diary

The **Kenneth Craik Lecture** will take place on 23 May 2001. The lecture will be given by Professor Edmund Rolls of the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, who will talk about 'Brain computations for perception and the selection of action'. The lecture will take place at 5pm in Theatre 1, Physiological Laboratory on the Downing Site. ☼

The **May Bumps** take place from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 June 2001. Support for the LMBC will be welcome! ☼

A **Johnian Dinner** takes place on Saturday 30 June for all those who matriculated up to and including 1949. The closing date for those wishing to attend is 4 June. Please contact the Steward's Secretary on (01223) 338686 for further details. ☼

Henley Royal Regatta takes place from Wednesday 4 to Sunday 8 July this year. As usual, John Durack (BA 1970) will be generously providing a picnic lunch on each day (except for Sunday) for members of the LMBC in the Cricket Club Car Park. We would like to encourage members of the Club to attend on the Thursday for a 'Club Day'. If you have any spare Stewards' Enclosure tickets for this day, please send them to Catherine Twilley, Senior Treasurer of the LMBC, St John's College, Cambridge, CB2 1TP, so that we can provide entry to current students and recent graduates. ☼

An **Open Weekend** will be held on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July 2001. Those who matriculated in 1954, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1971-73, 1980-82 and

1985-87 are invited to attend. Family and friends are welcome and the programme of events includes lectures, displays, exhibitions and dinners. Invitations were sent out in the spring. College Members who are resident abroad and who will be visiting the UK at the time are welcome to attend. Further details can be obtained from the Johnian Office. ☼

As usual, the **Johnian Society Golf Competition** takes place this summer. For further details please contact John Loosley (telephone: 01285 760460 or email: John@loosleyj.freecserve.co.uk). ☼

Each year the University holds an **Alumni Weekend** for members and their guests. This year the Weekend takes place from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 September and includes various lectures, including one by Sir Martin Rees on 'Cosmic Evolution: How will our universe end?', and other activities. The Weekend is organised by the University Development Office and information packs and application forms can be obtained by telephoning (01223) 339268.

The College is able to provide accommodation for Johnians and their guests at a cost of £23.30 per person per night (including breakfast). There is also a dinner in the Wordsworth Room on Saturday 22 September (£25.50 including wine) and a drinks party in the Master's Lodge on Sunday 23 September (free of charge). If you would like to book any of the College events, please contact Catherine Twilley at the Johnian Office. ☼

The **Johnian Society Dinner** takes place on Saturday 15 December 2001. As usual, application forms will be sent out with *The Eagle* in the summer. ☼

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