

News from Keston College

Development: building

Through the generosity of three major Trusts and an anonymous donor we have been able to complete the first stage of our building programme. Two more stages remain. In place of the old asbestos hut, which stood outside the main school buildings, a Communications Centre has been constructed incorporating a vestibule to the Reception Office. Its design, as approved by the local planning authorities, is in keeping with the rest of the school, even to the colour of the bricks. The Communications Centre is staffed by our Information Officers and accommodates the telex machine and photo archive.

The next essential step is to build a block for research work in place of the former toilets of the old school – unused and rapidly deteriorating. Then, to complete our present building programme, we are converting one of the school classrooms into a library and lecture room worthy of the College's books, and serviceable for guest researchers and student groups to whom we wish to extend our lecture programme. The furnishing of the library has already been provided for by Archdeacon John Youens.

Development: staff appointments

After 18 months of devoted and efficient work as our Financial Administrator, Mrs Doreen Young asked to be relieved of full-time responsibility due to family commitments. She will, however, assist the Deputy Director with the financial Appeal which will utilize Mrs Young's rare gifts of dedication and attention to detail. Our new Financial Administrator is Mr Tony Hudders who worked first in banking and accountancy and later managed, then owned, his own businesses.

Our research staff has recently been strengthened by the appointment of two senior researchers, one in the East European Department, the other in Soviet Studies.

Miss Josephine Winch is our new Subscriptions Secretary, keeping

track of all changes in our mailing list and in touch with our members and subscribers.

We know our friends and supporters will join us in invoking God's blessing on all these recruits to our staff team and also on two marriages recently celebrated. Michael Bourdeaux and Lorna Waterton were married in Bromley on 8 September, His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury officiating. Gill Clarke, our editorial assistant and warden of the College premises, married our first Financial Administrator, Richard Ablitt, in Bournemouth on 22 September.

Register of members

During the past year we have been able to establish a Register of Members. Most of our covenanted supporters and all our journal subscribers (unless they choose otherwise) are registered members of Keston College. Membership now stands at 1,100 and is increasing steadily. In addition to their committed financial support members provide a source of great spiritual strength.

Patrons

Keston College was very sad to receive news of the deaths of its two Orthodox patrons. Professor Georges Florovsky died in August and Archbishop Athenagoras of Thyateira and Great Britain in September. May they rest in peace.

Visitors

Mr Alan Scarfe, formerly head of our Romanian Department and now Executive Secretary of our associate centre in the USA, was able to spend some weeks at Keston, confirming plans for cooperation between the American and British offices. These plans were drawn up during the Deputy Director's visit to America in April.

We were delighted to receive a visit from one of our Appeal Sponsors, Lord Richardson, President of the British Medical Council, who remarked on the professionalism of the staff of the College.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome Archimandrite Kallistos Ware (formerly a member of our Council of Management) who brought a group of participants in the Pan-Orthodox Conference, held in Chislehurst, Kent, from 2 to 6 August.

In August we welcomed Archbishop designate the Rt Rev. Robert Runcie, Bishop of St Albans. The Bishop, who has travelled extensively in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, was impressed with the scope of the College's work. We hope that many bishops and other church leaders will give us the opportunity of introducing them to the staff and their activities.

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REVIEWS

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