



# Barts Guild News

ISSUE 22

NOVEMBER 2023

## The Guild celebrates Barts 900

We celebrated Barts 900 with a party in the Princess Alice Garden on Tuesday 12 September.

The date coincided with the reopening of the garden which had been restored to its full beauty after a prolonged closure to enable essential works on the Henry VIII Gate House.

We were delighted to welcome as our Guest of Honour our Royal Patron His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

To thank our Royal Patron for his continued interest in the Guild our President Ann Wickham presented His Royal Highness (see page two) with a copy of a map of Barts drawn in 1617 showing the hospital buildings and the site of what was to become the Princess Alice Garden.

Throughout the afternoon His Royal Highness met and chatted with guests including Guild volunteers, grant recipients, Barts staff and management, Barts Heritage, local MP Nickie Aiken and good friends of the Guild the League of Barts Nurses.

Afternoon tea and a glass of Prosecco served by Lesley Evans and her team of volunteers, jazz standards beautifully interpreted by the Tom Ridout Trio and, after a morning of drizzling rain, a surprisingly warm and sunny afternoon all combined to encourage a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

This not only marked the 900th anniversary of the Hospital but also confirmed the Princess Alice Garden as a place physically close yet far away from the bustle of the Hospital.

*Continued on page two.*



*HRH the Duke of Gloucester arrives in the Princess Alice Garden, accompanied by Ann Wickham, Guild President.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

## The Guild celebrates Barts 900 cont.

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*Photographs: Bob Cooper*





## A race against time

The date was agreed, the invitations sent, catering planned and the band booked. Nothing could go wrong for the Guild's Garden Party on 12 September could it? Unfortunately, it did.

The Princess Alice Garden had been covered in scaffolding and building equipment for a very long time to enable the much-needed restoration of the Henry VIII Gate House. Following the completion of the works our gardeners got to work to deal with the damage caused by a hard winter.

The old York Stone paving slabs were in a dangerous condition having been raised and cracked by spreading tree roots. To deal with this problem it was decided to replace the slabs with resin paving which has better resistance to spreading roots.

This was being laid when the damaged flag stones nearest to the Gate House were removed and a burial vault was revealed. Coffins in a former burying ground are not surprising but, at the entrance to the vault, scattered human remains were found and this was duly investigated. As these things do this took a long time.

The interim archaeological report concluded that the un-coffined remains were most probably re-buried in the vault during previous building work. Sadly, health and safety concerns prevented a full examination of the vault. However, a visible coffin (pictured right) appeared to be typical of the 19th century taste for elaborate - and expensive - funeral furnishings.

We were told that we could proceed with the work just in time to allow the party to go ahead on 12 September. The deadline was tight but we managed it. The vault was covered and the last of the paving was laid a few days before the event. The John Wickham table was put back in place and the new table in memory of Jackie Roe was installed.



*Photographs: Steve Eames, courtesy of Barts Health NHS Trust*

Our gardeners, Graeme and Noel, worked tirelessly until an hour or so before the party began to complete the new planting and spruce everything up ready to receive our guests.

We are very grateful to the Trust's Estates department for their help and support and to our gardeners for their hard work and determination that the Princess Alice Garden would look its best for the event.

## The Guild AGM 2023

The Guild's AGM was held on 25 October in the Basinghall Suite at the Guildhall.

The meeting opened with a welcome by our President Mrs Ann Wickham. Ann reflected on events during the Barts 900 celebrations. An event which gave her much pleasure was a symposium with speakers from many Barts departments. The Guild was invited to participate and this was very pleasing as it reflected the growing appreciation of the Guild's work and that our charity was "No longer a silent army".

The Annual Report and Accounts were accepted and in his address Guild Treasurer, Keith Bottomley was happy to note that the Guild's finances were very healthy despite having made some very large grants to projects associated with Barts 900 projects.

The appointment of two new Officers was confirmed:

Stephen Edmondson BSc FRCS FRCP was appointed Deputy Chairman. He is a Cardiothoracic surgeon and was appointed to the consultant staff of Barts in 1984.

Julie Pearce was appointed Honorary Secretary. Julie has extensive experience in working with City Livery Companies and she received the Freedom of the City of London in 1998.

Following the resignations of Adrian Stirrup, Chris Hayes, James Ballinger and James Benson the following were appointed as trustees: Angela Robinson, Julie Pearce, Dawn Wright, Stephen Edmondson and Jean Stephenson.

Neil Ritson has completed his first three-year term as a trustee and will serve another three years. Having completed their second three-year term Keith Bottomley and Hilary Tarr will now stand down as trustees.



*Stephen Edmondson with Wendy Mead OBE.*



*Julie Pearce.*

*Photographs: Bob Cooper*

*Continued on page five.*



## The Guild AGM 2023 cont.

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Our Chairman Chris Hayward was delighted to note that the Guild was in good heart and thanked everyone concerned for making the past year a great success.

Our Guest Speaker the Lady Mayoress Mrs Felicity Lyons gave a charming address praising the Guild's work. She felt that the work of Guild volunteers for Barts patients and staff was remarkable, and she described Barts as "the heart of London". The Lady Mayoress, in conclusion, thanked the Guild for our regular participation in the Lord Mayor's Show.



*The Lady Mayoress (left) with Chairman Chris Hayward and President Ann Wickham.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

## No Christmas Concert in 2023

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We are very sad to announce that we will be unable to offer our much-loved Celebration of Christmas this year.

Restoration works on the Great Hall are progressing but will not be completed until 2024 and it has been impossible to find a suitable alternative venue for the event.

We hope that next year we can celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season by welcoming Guild members and the wider Barts family to the Great Hall newly restored to its Georgian glory.

*JAN O'NEILL*

## Did you know?

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About the connection between Barts and Cleopatra's needle? When the obelisk was gifted to Britain in 1817 the British government declined to pay for its transport; 60 years later the surgeon and dermatologist Sir Erasmus Wilson, who had a keen interest in Egyptian antiquities, paid the £10,000 cost himself and the obelisk was erected in 1878 on the Embankment. Wilson (1809-1884) had attended Abernethy's lectures at Barts whilst training as a doctor; his interest in skin diseases arose from a wish to help the poor. He was a great philanthropist as well as a champion of sanitary reform.

*GS*



## Christmas shopping

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A visit to the Guild Shop in the Atrium of the KGV building is a must for the discerning Christmas shopper. Gifts that are bound to delight everyone on your Christmas list range from books and prints to clothing and souvenirs, many of which commemorate Barts 900.

Whether your taste in Christmas cards is for something traditional or something comical, the Guild's 2023 selection is irresistible. Choose from ten beautiful designs with four pictured below. Cards cost £3.50 per pack of 10.

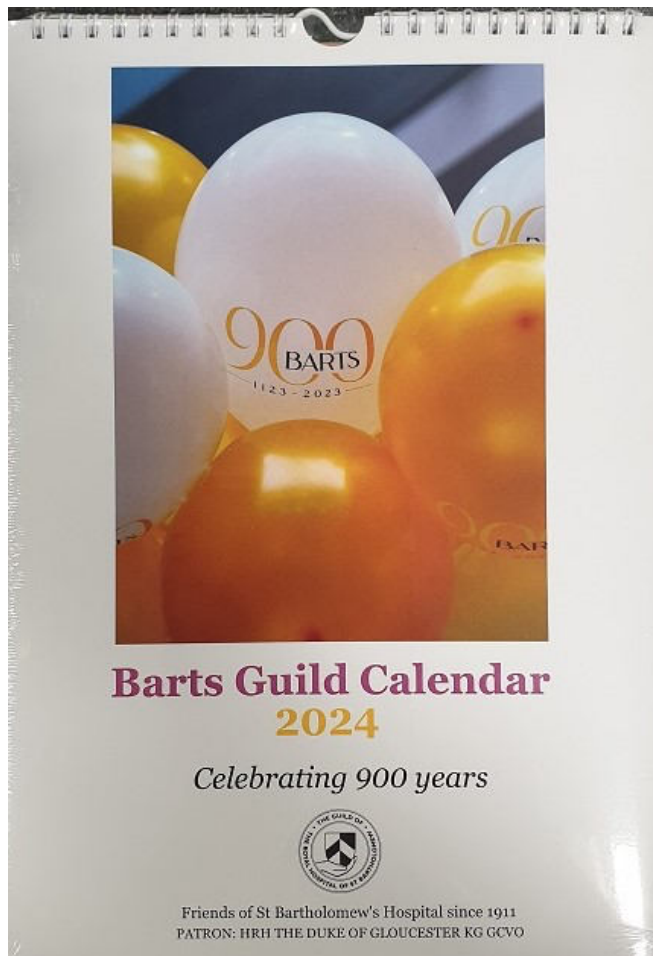


If you would like your Guild shopping delivered to your door, please visit our online shop where you can view the shop's stock including the full range of Christmas cards or visit the shop in person to make your choice. The shop is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.



## Christmas shopping cont.

Everyone needs a calendar and this year's Guild calendar celebrates Barts 900 events. The calendar is in the ever-popular A4 wall hanging format. A perfect gift at just £7.



2023 has been a busy year for the shop. Manager Andy Haddon said: "The Guild shop has seen very pleasing increases in sales and footfall this year, approaching numbers not seen since before the Covid lockdown."

"We're always on the lookout for new volunteers to work in the shop and particularly on the trolley service to the wards. Usually, volunteers take on one shift of 3 to 4 hours every week."



If you're interested in receiving more information, please email [volunteer@bartsguild.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@bartsguild.org.uk)

[bartsguild.org.uk/souvenir-store/](https://bartsguild.org.uk/souvenir-store/)

## Elective Grant report: Emma Welsh

First of all, I would like to thank Barts Guild whose funding made this elective possible. My medical elective was in the emergency department of Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital in Apia, Samoa.

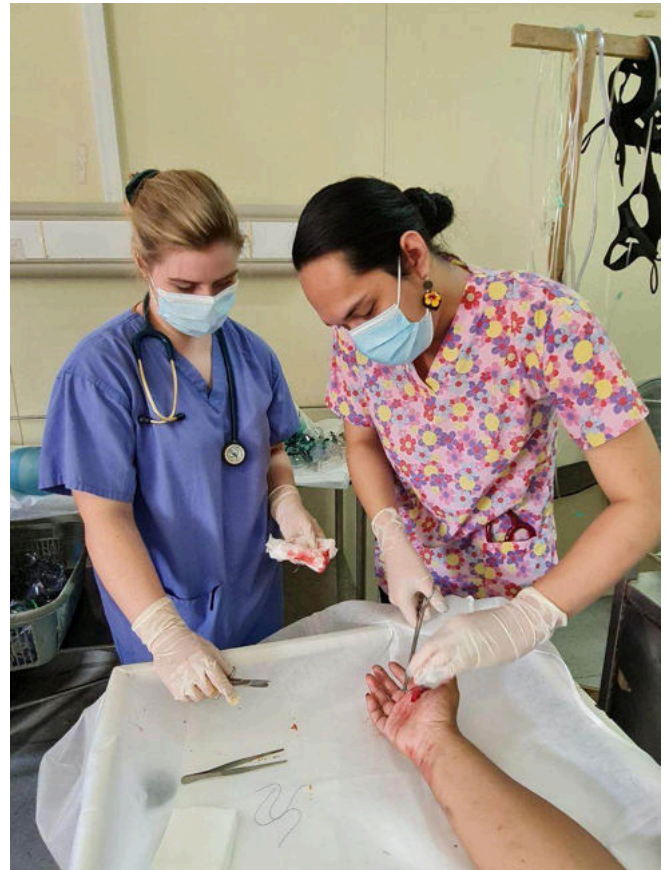
### THE JOURNEY

On 3 May, two friends and I began our long journey across the globe to reach Samoa, a beautiful, remote tropical island in the Pacific Ocean. We arrived on the main island, Upolu, and drove to Apia, Samoa's capital city. Whilst our drive took us through a thunderstorm, all the villages were out playing rugby in their fields, enjoying the rare cool weather. We finally arrived at our accommodation after a total of 40 hours travelling; keen to sleep but excited to see what this elective would bring.

### THE EXPERIENCE

I arrived at the hospital where I was introduced to the emergency team. The team was typically made up of five to six nurses and one consultant doctor. The department itself comprises of one waiting room, one triage room, and one main ward for admitted emergencies. After my introduction, I was immediately sent to triage to see patients.

My role varied from taking histories and examining patients to more practical procedures such as taking blood samples, inserting cannulas or catheters, or stitching up wounds. After seeing patients, I would present the case back to the consultant in charge along with my differential diagnoses and recommendations. Cases which commonly presented to the hospital included: pneumonia, complications of diabetes, sepsis, trauma, and cardiac arrests. A fantastic learning experience for me involved suturing the arm of a man who had fallen on a machete. After washing and disinfecting the wound, I injected local anaesthetic before performing interrupted stitches to close the wound.



The wound was bandaged, and the patient was given antibiotics along with a tetanus booster to help prevent an infection. Injuries due to machinery and machetes are very common as villagers farm their own land to sustain themselves. Over the weeks, I learnt that the Samoan population has an obesity rate as high as 58.4% and the hospital sees many cases related to diabetes and cardiac conditions admitted every day. It was here that I experienced my first cardiac arrest call in real time. The staff were extremely efficient as a team, fulfilling each role well individually so they can help each other. Watching everyone work gave me a much better understanding of all the roles involved; from one person calling the times to the rotation of staff ready to perform CPR. It is an experience I will not forget and gives me a better insight into what to expect when I am involved with cardiac arrests in the UK.

*Continued on page nine.*



## Elective Grant report: Emma Welsh cont.

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There are many differences between Samoa and the UK but the most glaringly obvious is the lack of funding for the hospital. The department is extremely understaffed, and it is rare for there to be more than two doctors present on the emergency floor. Furthermore, there are only 4 surgical theatres and one CT scanner for the entire hospital. In addition, there is only one radiologist for the island and scan results can take several days to return. In comparison, the A&E in the Royal London Hospital alone has 4 different zones, and portable X-ray and ultrasound machines readily on hand to make a diagnosis. Working in Samoa highlighted how fortunate we are to have the UK NHS and the services it provides, especially in an emergency.

My experience in Samoa was extremely enriching for my clinical skills. Resources are scarce which results in clinicians only ordering the essentials and working closely with other teams to provide good care. This resourcefulness is something I hope to bring into my own practice as I challenge myself to pair up my knowledge with the true necessities to help prevent over testing/prescribing. In addition, I also experienced personal growth and a boost in confidence. As a final year medical student, the nurses and doctors treated me with respect and the expectation of a newly qualified doctor. This meant some nurses would come to consult me on a patient's observations and what they should do next. This was the first time I had such an active role in the care of patients, and it helped me build confidence in my own abilities. I also learnt to acknowledge my own limits and when to ask for help from seniors.

I will continue to work on my leadership skills throughout my career as I gain more confidence and experience in medicine.

### EXPLORING THE ISLANDS

Outside of work I was fortunate enough to be able to explore Samoa. The country consists of multiple islands, the main island being Upolu and the largest island being Savai'i.

On Upolu, there are beautiful beaches, ocean trenches, and fantastic mountain hikes to be done, whilst on Savai'i, there are breathtaking lava fields and ocean blowholes.

The nature in Samoa is untouched and stunning to look at and, whilst I encourage tourists to go and visit, it is paramount that the land is treated with respect to maintain its unique beauty.

### CONCLUSION

This has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience that has shaped my knowledge, skillset, and confidence. I miss the colleagues I worked with as they shaped my placement into the fantastic experience that it was. They were kind, patient and excited to help me learn whilst I was there. If I am fortunate enough to ever visit again, I would go back in a heartbeat. Now that I am back in England, I shall be working as a foundation doctor.

EMMA WELSH

*Final year medical student  
Barts and The London School of Medicine and  
Dentistry*



## Guild Grants: European Society of Cardiology Conference

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Participating in the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) 2023 Conference in Amsterdam was an immensely enriching experience.

This prestigious event in August convened leading experts and researchers in cardiology from across the globe, providing me with a unique opportunity to immerse myself in the latest developments in cardiovascular care and emerging healthcare technologies.

The educational event expanded my knowledge base significantly, offering a profound understanding of the gold standard in cardiovascular care and its latest advancements. Moreover, it allowed me to engage in fruitful discussions with fellow professionals, facilitating knowledge sharing and exposing me to novel patient care practices.

Upon returning to St Bartholomew's Hospital, I made it a priority to share my enhanced understanding and knowledge gained from the conference.

I distributed a succinct email and took the initiative to engage in discussions with the wider multidisciplinary team to summarise the insightful takeaways from the conference sessions.

This proactive knowledge-sharing aligns seamlessly with the enduring commitment to ensuring clinical excellence in cardiovascular care at St Bartholomew's Hospital. While the core values of the department remain unwavering, the knowledge and insights acquired from the conference serve as a guiding light, consistently shaping and informing our dedication to delivering the pinnacle of care to our patients.

I would like to thank the Guild for their generous support in helping fund my attendance at the conference. The charity's generosity has enriched my own knowledge whilst also contributing to the enhancement of patient care practices at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

**BETHANY LANE**

*Senior staff nurse in ACCU - Adult Critical Care Unit*



*The conference hall in Amsterdam.*

*Photograph: Bethany Lane*



# Critical Care follow up patient and family day

These posters were created to offer feedback about the day to our very large group of staff who were unable to attend.

What we learn from patients is very beneficial and also encouraging so this is one way we can spread the word!

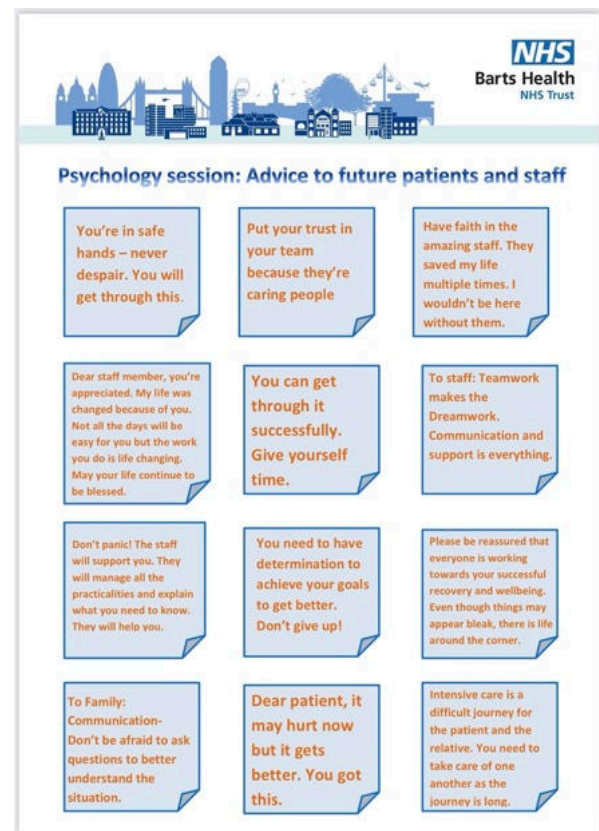
We send them to staff via email and also display them in handover / break rooms.

*ELEANOR CONRICH  
Junior Sister ACCU*

*Core Team IE / Critical Care Follow Up Clinic*

The Guild gave a grant to provide a sandwich lunch for attendees at this event.

The organisers kindly allowed the Guild banner and membership information to be displayed in the meeting room.



## Welcome to our new Hospitaller

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My name is Revd Julie Khovacs and I am very happy to introduce myself as the new Hospitaller at St Bartholomew's Hospital. I am from the USA, grew up in Seattle, WA, was ordained in 2011 and have served in a variety of ministry settings. As hospitaller at St Barts I, along with the team of chaplains from across the faiths, provide pastoral, spiritual and religious care to patients, families and staff.

I believe that God meets us and is with us through the joys and challenges of life and it is my hope to help others see God's love and care for them. Much of my day is spent visiting patients and engaging with people to help further the work of chaplaincy.

I am married to Ivan who is also a priest and a lecturer in theology. We both love to travel, cycle and prepare adventurous meals. I look forward to connecting with the wonderful work of the Barts Guild and meeting many of you in the months ahead.



*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

## Sister Mazie Calcutt

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The great-nieces of the late Sister Mazie Calcutt visited Barts Hospital and the Guild in April. Sister Calcutt was the cover image of the Guild's 2021 calendar and, as a young nurse, the poster image for Barts Hospital's Financial Appeal in 1939.



*Louise Cassell, Sarah Gordon-Colebrooke and Emma Bishop are photographed with Guild former chairman Andrew Phillips.*



*Mazie Calcutt pictured on a fundraising poster in 1939.  
Photograph courtesy of Barts Health NHS Trust Archives*



## Rahere

*Guild President Ann Wickham tells the story of St Bartholomew's founder*

The Ghost of Rahere still walks at Barts  
It gives an impulse to generous hearts,  
It looks on pain with a pitying eye  
It makes us never afraid to die.

Eight hundred years of compassion and care  
Have hallowed its fountain, stones and square  
Pray for us all as we near the Gate  
St. Barts the Less and St. Barts the Great

*Sir John Betjeman (1906 - 1984)*  
*(written at the suggestion of John Wickham, his*  
*consultant surgeon at Barts in 1975)*

But who was Rahere?

Little is known about Rahere's early years, but he possibly came from Normandy. He became a minstrel and raconteur in the court of Henry I (reigned 1100 - 1135). Henry I was the youngest son of William the Conqueror and became Duke of Normandy on his accession to the throne and made frequent visits to France.

In "The Book of the Foundation of the Priory of St. Bartholomew in Smithfield", a chronicle written by the Augustinian canons of the Priory of St Bartholomew in the late 12th century, the life of Rahere is recorded from when he arrived at Henry's court, his conversion, pilgrimage to Rome, his vision of St Bartholomew and the building of the Priory and Hospital.

Rahere was a great favourite of King Henry and his court. He entertained them with his music and stories and was always able to raise the mood of the court and listen to their problems, real and imaginary. He was an accomplished musician and storyteller and wrote all his own scripts. He always accompanied King Henry on his visits both at home and in France.

In November 1120 King Henry was preparing to return to England from one of his visits to



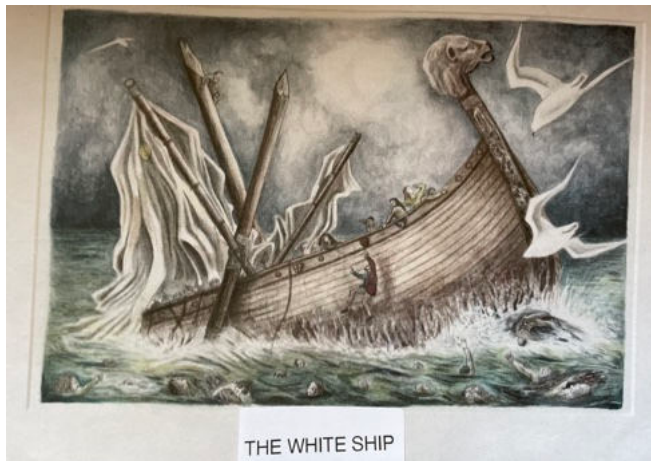
*Rahere window in St Bartholomew the Less.*

*Photograph: Bob Cooper*

Normandy, accompanied by his son and only legitimate heir, Prince William Aetheling. They were due to set sail from the Normandy port of Barfleur in two ships, one for King Henry and the other for Prince William.

King Henry and his court chose to sail in the ship known as a "esnecca", a traditional Viking vessel, whilst Prince William and his court and friends were to sail in a ship called "La Blanche Nef" or the "White Ship".

*Continued on page fourteen.*



*"White Ship" by Vincent Bouriot*

King Henry's ship sailed first whilst Prince William and his family and friends decided to delay their departure to party and enjoy the copious amounts of French wine which had been brought aboard. This led to an inevitable result as not only the passengers were inebriated but also the crew. Shortly after they set sail, they crashed into the rocks which lay at the entrance to the harbour. The boat sank immediately drowning almost everyone on board including Prince William, though a butcher from Rouen managed to swim ashore.

King Henry was said never to smile again and the whole court went into mourning. This disaster changed the course of English history. In 1115 Rahere was made a Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral which gave him a small income and he was also befriended by the Bishop of London, Richard de Belmeis. Following the White Ship disaster Rahere became an Augustinian Canon and went on a pilgrimage to Rome to atone for his sins at the shrines of St Peter and St Paul. Whilst he was in Rome, he became seriously ill, probably with malaria which was rife in Rome at the time. The marshy land which surrounded Rome was an ideal breeding ground for the malaria carrying mosquitos. On his recovery Rahere vowed to build a hospital in London to care for sick and injured patients.

On his journey back to London Rahere had a nightmare or vision of being suspended from a great height by an enormous winged creature with blazing eyes above a fathomless pit. He was filled with speechless terror. Suddenly a vision of St. Bartholomew appeared before him.

*Continued on page fifteen.*



*A stamp sold to raise money for Barts.*



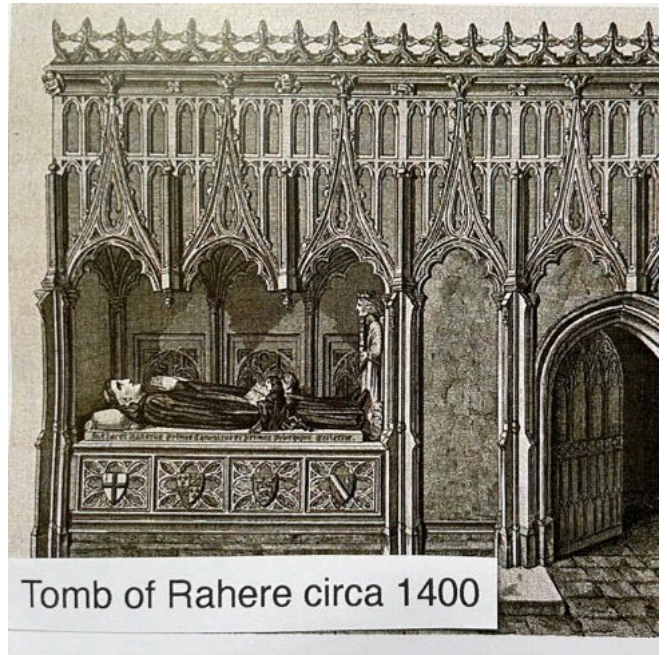
## Rahere cont.

St Bartholomew said he would release him from the terrifying vision if he would promise to build a Priory dedicated to St Bartholomew in a place called Smoothfield just outside the city walls. He must obtain the land from King Henry and not worry about the finances.

On his return to London Rahere immediately petitioned King Henry and was granted the land to build both a Priory and a Hospital. At that time Smoothfield, or Smithfield as it became known, was an area of smelly, filthy, wet bogland. The only dry areas were used for horse fairs and to hang criminals. Rahere viewed the boggy mess and put a plan into action.

To clear the land for the two buildings, Rahere gathered together a band of homeless hungry boys. He fed, clothed and housed them and in the evening he entertained his group of young labourers and played games with them. Gradually the two sites were cleared and ready for the buildings.

On 25 March 1123, the Bishop of London Richard de Belmeis consecrated the site of the Priory and ended his blessing with these words: "Whoever asks shall receive, Whoever seeks shall find and Whoever knocks it shall be opened".



Tomb of Rahere circa 1400

Rahere died in 1144 and both the Priory and the Hospital buildings had been completed. His magnificent tomb c1400 can be seen in the Priory Church today. It has survived iconoclasm, fires and warfare, and after 900 years the Priory remains a house of prayer.

Long may he continue to walk at Barts.

ANN WICKHAM  
Guild President

## Salus, Pietas, Fides

*A reflection on the book of requests for prayers in Saint Bartholomew the Less*

### **"Salus, Pietas, Fides" by Sophie Allington**

*In St Barts-the-Less lies a ledger of letters,  
Prayers, pleas, and notations of hope,  
with all the addressers calling faith in the Blesser  
wishing their loved ones home.  
Names upon names, pages of pains, read out  
weekly, like clockwork, for those  
who are suffering, those who are struggling  
and those who just want to go home.*

*This book stands for the grand of the land  
and the lowly, who all alike  
crave for comfort and listen for dulcet  
echoes to soothe their plight.  
Who responds to the call? Well all  
Priors and Apostles, nurses and doctors,  
an answer unchanged for 900 years;  
The words of the sage assure and assuage:  
"We hear you, we'll heal you, we're here".*



*Everyone at Barts Guild wishes you a very  
Merry Christmas and hopes that 2024 will  
bring health and happiness to you,  
your family and friends.*



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