

Bernard Mizeki Grants – Sam Maginnis

For over 100 years Pusey House has been at the heart of the Anglo-Catholic movement as a centre of growth and renewal for the Church of England and for its place within the Universal Church. In recent years the House has seen its own period of intense growth and renewal, helped in no small part by the financial support of the Bernard Mizeki Trust. The awarding of a grant by the Trust has allowed the House to develop its chapel internship programme in 2015/16, with two full-time chapel interns based at Pusey House and a third working as a pastoral assistant in the nearby parish of St Barnabas, Jericho. The purpose of the internship programme has been to allow individuals exploring vocation to develop their own ministry and spirituality at the House and in the parish whilst supporting the life and mission of the House and Dr Pusey's Library more generally.

When I arrived at Pusey House on 1 September 2015 I had just finished a year as a pastoral assistant in a deprived urban parish near Dudley in the West Midlands (prior to this I had worked for five years as a lawyer in London). My time in the parish was most rewarding and encouraging to my sense of vocation, and I was subsequently attracted to the Pusey House scheme by the opportunity to explore chaplaincy ministry and to draw on the House's rich liturgical and intellectual heritage. It has certainly not disappointed – under the leadership of the Principal, the Rev'd Dr George Westhaver, the House has engaged in a wide-ranging programme of chapel services, lectures, study meetings and hospitality as part of its mission of pastoral support and spiritual guidance to students and the wider university community, and as a chapel intern I have played an integral part in the planning and execution of this work.

My primary role this year has been that of 'House Manager', with responsibility for the House's hospitality schedule, overseeing public events (including our three-day theological conference held at the end of June) and organising supplies of food and other provisions. I have also helped shape and coordinate the House's liturgical and educational activities as a member of the greater chapter. I have been active in chapel life, leading the Daily Offices and serving at Mass, and have provided a friendly face to members of the Pusey House community who are seeking pastoral support and guidance. I have even been able to maintain a link to parish ministry by attending the weekly business meetings at St Barnabas' Church, and have played a more active part in services and other activities at St Barnabas outside the academic term, not least in the run-up to Christmas and the Easter Triduum.

Personal formation has been by weekly group sessions with other members of the community exploring vocation and fortnightly one-to-one supervisions with Fr George or the House chaplain, Fr Mark Stafford, providing a space in which matters of faith and spirituality, as well as personal issues, can be openly and honestly discussed. Underpinning all this – and, I believe, the continuing success of Pusey House's work – has been the creation of a close-knit and committed community of prayer, providing a supportive environment in which young Christians can learn and grow together in faith and in their common mission to students and non-students, the church and the world.

My year as a Pusey House intern has been a truly blessed and transformative experience, and has given so much to sustain me on my vocational journey and continuing exploration of a catholic understanding of the Church of England. Even though my internship finishes at the end of July, I am happy to say that I am staying on at Pusey House in the role of Assistant Sacristan as I continue to discern my vocation and begin independent theological study at St Stephen's House in 2016/17. I look forward to meeting the next intake of chapel interns and hope to be of assistance to them as they take over this unique and valuable role.