



## UNION OF OLD ST MONICANS UK NEWSLETTER

*EDITION 1, JANUARY 2025*

### **Editorial**

Welcome to the January 2025 first edition of the Union of Old St Monicans UK Newsletter! As we step into a new year, it is fitting that we pause to reflect on our journey thus far; celebrate our achievements, examine any challenges and look forward to future initiatives. As a first step on this reflective journey, this edition highlights the incredible work of the Order of the Holy Paraclete (OHP) nuns in what was then the Gold Coast, surveys the amazing achievement of the seven key institutions in the country and incredibly, the ongoing support from the Union of Old St Monicans (UK) for their work. Our dedicated executive team and patrons work tirelessly to uphold our core mission of support to these institutions.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN**

Dear Members of the Old St Monicans Union,

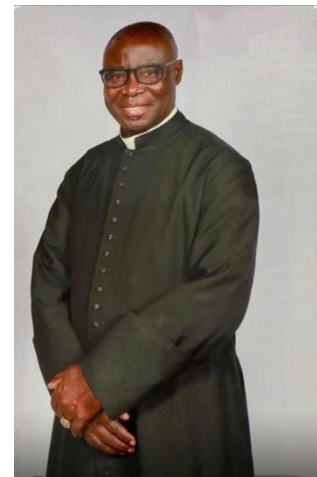
As we launch our first newsletter, I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the remarkable journey we have embarked upon together. This newsletter serves as a testament to our shared history, our collective achievements, and our unwavering commitment to the values instilled in us by the Order of the Holy Paraclete (OHP) nuns from Whitby.

**The Legacy of the OHP Nuns** -They are dedicated to serving others. In 1926 they began their work in Ghana, which has transformed countless lives. From establishing schools and training colleges with spiritual development insights, to providing essential healthcare services, the nuns have been a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration. Their selfless service and unwavering faith have left an indelible mark on our communities.

**Our Role in Continuing Their Mission**- As members of the Old St Monicans Union, we have a unique opportunity and responsibility to continue the good work of the OHP nuns. Our contributions, whether through giving of our time, resources, or financial support, are crucial in sustaining and expanding the initiatives started by the nuns.

### **Why Your Contribution Matters**

- **Supporting Education:** our contributions help maintain and improve the educational institutions established by the nuns, ensuring continued opportunities for future generations.
- **Enhancing Healthcare:** Donations support healthcare facilities and services, providing essential care to those in need.



*Revd Canon Jacob Owusu  
Kyei-Baffour, Union Chaplain*

- **Preserving Legacy:** By giving back, we honour the legacy of the OHP nuns and ensure that their mission of service continues to thrive.

**A Call to Action** -I urge each of you to reflect on the profound impact the OHP nuns have had on our lives and communities. Let us come together, united in purpose, to support their mission. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference. Together, we can uphold the values of compassion, service, and faith that the nuns have exemplified.

Thank you for your continued dedication and generosity. May we all be inspired by the legacy of the OHP nuns and strive to make a positive difference in the world.

With blessings and gratitude,

**Revd Canon Jacob Owusu Kyei-Baffour**  
Chaplain, Old St Monicans Union

### **THE ORDER OF THE HOLY PARACLETE (OHP):**



*Sister Jocelyn with Union members in Whitby, August 2024*

This Order is an Anglican religious community founded in 1915 by Margaret Cope at St Hilda's Priory (The Mother House). The OHP nuns are known for their commitment to education, healthcare, and provision of spiritual guidance to young people. Sister Jocelyn, who was elected as Prioress (Head of the Order) in 2019, currently leads the Order.

For more information about the work of the OHP, [visit their website here.](#)

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ST MONICAN FAMILY**

On October 26, 1926, the 3rd Anglican Bishop of the then Gold Coast, Right Reverend John Orfeur Aglionby, sent invitations to all the Anglican Orders he knew, inviting them to help with his mission. Only OHP nuns responded in the affirmative. Responding to this call, three young nuns: Sisters Dorothy, Lilla, and Gertrude, along with their Prioress, Mother Margaret, travelled from Whitby. They sailed from Liverpool in the UK, to the port of Sekondi, then journeyed to Cape Coast to settle and work.

Their mission was to establish education for the girl child and a Training College to meet the needs of young girls in the Gold Coast. In Cape Coast, they initially stayed at the Acquah's Hotel, and later moved into rented accommodation to make room for the students and necessary classrooms. Gradually, the premises acquired at Aboom in Cape Coast was modified to suit the requirements of an educational institution, with playing fields and garden. It had boarding facilities for some, but many were day students (initially both boys and girls attended). It stands today still imposing, an awesome testimony to a great vision.



*Mother Margaret, Founder and First Prioress*

For more details on the History of St Monican Family, visit [the school pages on our website](#)

## **THE 7 ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS**

The institutions founded by the OHP nuns, from the Gold Coast days to date, are:

1. St. Monica's School (Primary and Junior High) - Cape Coast established on 13th November 1926
2. Bishop's Girls' School (Primary and Junior High) – Accra established in 1937
3. St. Monica's Elementary Girls Boarding School (Primary and Junior High) in Mampong Ashanti established in November 1930
4. St. Monica's College of Education - Mampong Ashanti was established in 1930 in Cape Coast (moved to Mampong in 1936).
5. St. Monica's Girls Secondary School (Senior High) - Mampong Ashanti was established in 1946
6. St. Margaret's Midwifery Training School & Maternity Hospital - Mampong Ashanti was established in 1954
7. The Babies Home (Orphanage) - Mampong Ashanti was established in 1967.

**All the seven institutions share the same motto: *EACH FOR ALL AND ALL FOR GOD***

### **Other Work of the OHP Nuns in Ghana:**

- **Eye Clinic in Jachie:** Managed by Sister Aba, providing essential eye care services.
- **Vocational School in Sunyani:** Run by Sisters Mavis and Philomena, offering computer and craft training to girls unable to complete their secondary education.
- **Communion Wafers Production:** Produced in Sunyani, supporting local churches.

## **The Union's Achievements and Support to the Seven Institutions in Ghana**

Over the years, the Union has successfully raised funds for refurbishments, repairs, and logistical support for the institutions.

### **UNION OF OLD ST MONICANS (UK) AND PATRONS**

The Union of Old St Monicans (UK) is a vibrant community of past students from these seven institutions. Established in 1989, the Union aims to revive friendships, support the institutions, and uphold our motto.



*Presentations to various OHP institutions over recent years*

### **Patrons**

Our patrons include esteemed professionals who support our mission through fundraising and advocacy:

- **Revd Canon Jacob Kyei-Baffour (Union Chaplain)**
- **The OHP Nuns**
- **Mr Harry Quainoo**
- **Supt. Keith Fraser**
- **Dr and Mrs Emmanuel Akuffo**
- **Prof Herbert Blankson and Lady Lily**
- **Mrs Georgina Patience Bempah**
- **Mr Kofi Asante**
- **Mr Kwaw Elliott**
- **Ric Edelman**

### **Chairlady, Secretary and Vice Chairladies**

- **Chairlady:** Barbara Ntow-Boahene
- **Vice Chairladies:** Patina Blankson and Sandra Yaghoubi
- **Secretary:** Doris Bonsu

### **LITURGICAL SERVICES AND MEETINGS**

We hold a Carol Service (Nine Lessons and Carols) each December, a 'Lenten Jar' fundraising challenge (each member raises at least a pound a day during Lent) and a Foundress Service every May.



We visit the OHP Nuns every two years, our most recent visit was in August 2024.

### **Meetings**

We meet four times a year and our Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place in January. The in-person meetings and services take place at Christ Church and St. Stephen's, Battersea Park Road, London SW11 3BY.

- **January:** Zoom
- **April:** In- Person
- **July:** Zoom
- **October:** In-person

### **Events and Websites**

The Union organizes various events to foster community spirit and raise funds for the schools. We have organised talks once or twice a year on specific topics presented by a professional, and make welfare visits to the elderly, physically challenged and bereaved members of the Union.

We encourage all to stay updated regarding all events by visiting our website. Let's continue to pray for our Alma Mater and the Union.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of our newsletter and look forward to updating you with future achievements.

Warm regards,

### **The Editorial Team**

Union of Old St Monicans, UK

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*Foundress Service, May 2024*

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