

Bernard Myers 1925 - 2007

Bernard Myers, accompanied by his wife, Pamela, was a long-standing worshipper at St Nicholas. Towards the end of his life he was housebound but kept his links to the church with regular visits from our Eucharistic Ministers.

Bernard and Pamela lived in one of the modern houses, which back onto the river at the west end of Chiswick Mall, just before you come to Hammersmith Terrace. (Julian Trevelyan and Mary Fedden were responsible for their being built.) These homes are only available to working artists and Bernard fitted this requirement admirably. On a bright, sunny day, with the sweep of the Thames outside, it was a pleasure to visit his comfortable home with its fascinating collection of magnificent railway engines.

Bernard went to school in Tunbridge Wells and took up instrument-making on leaving. However the second World War was under way and as soon as he was old enough he volunteered for flying duty in the RAF and became an air gunner. At the end of the war, while awaiting demobilisation, he attended an art school in Yorkshire and was encouraged to pursue a career in drawing and painting. On his return to London he studied at St Martin's, at Camberwell and finally at the Royal College of Art (RCA) where, dressed as a monkey, at an end of term party, he met his wife to be, Pamela.

He then taught at various art schools and at the Architectural Association and was recruited to teach at the RCA in 1963. In 1968 he was appointed a visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi where he started a design course for Civil Engineers. He loved India and did many paintings there. As well as teaching he continued painting and writing – his works can be found in many national collections and his books appeared under the imprimatur of various prestigious publishing houses. He became the RCA's first-ever Professor of Design Education in 1979, and later accepted the new Chair of Design Technology at Brunel University, retiring in 1985 to his beloved studio at St Peter's Wharf.

This spacious studio looked out over the Thames. The special quality of the light on the river and the landscape beyond inspired many of Bernard's later paintings. Despite suffering several strokes he carried on painting to the end of his life and had a one-man exhibition only a year before he died.

At St Nicholas Church, the series of joyful prints by Bernard on the Benedicite light up the south wall. They were presented by Pamela after Bernard died. She also made available to the church for auction a series of Bernard's paintings of Hogarth's tomb which can now be seen in various homes in Chiswick.