

MRS MARGARET GREENHILL

Jim Odell wrote in The Edmundian in 1993:

Margaret's arrival at St Edmund's was very low key . Between 1976 and 1981, when Sister Bridget Tasker arrived, she was relief for Sister Ann Purcell. Thereafter students had to be `proper poorly' before they could get a leave off, let alone a bed for the night. Old and present-day Edmundians will recall her advice to `go and play on the A10!' She too would qualify for the title `scourge of the malingerer ' bestowed on Sister Purcell by Father Garvey.

But those who were genuinely ill were always treated with a particular mixture of kindness, born of concern, and firmness, which resulted in her patients making a speedy recovery. I had firsthand experience of her kindness after having to be carried from the Masters' Common Room to the Infirmary with back problems . The recovery process stretched into a number of weeks as I progressed from a narrow mattress to a wider one, then to a chair and eventually to walking with a Zimmer frame. I wonder how Mrs Harper and Captain and Mrs Phillips ever managed to slip in unnoticed with suitable beverages hidden about their persons; but as the captain remarked, the sun was over the yard-arm.

Not many people came or went without being observed, for Margaret ' s armchair enabled her to enjoy that most pleasing prospect of the terraces, Chapel and Crucifix.

Those of us who were privileged to know Margaret found a good friend. Sick students were always fully cared for . If she was brusque, it was a warning not to waste her time with silly excuses in order to `dodge the column' . All needing hospital treatment were dispatched to the casualty department, and teachers were coerced into acting as their chauffeurs . She once even tried to get me to take a student to the Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Grays Inn Road.



Margaret Greenhill died in December 2009 at the age of 95. May she rest in peace.