

Reference Code:	ACJ/SB
Title:	Papers relating to the history and management of St Bede's Pastoral Centre, York
Creation Dates:	1985–present
Level of Description:	Collection
Medium:	10 boxes
Extent:	2 linear metres
Creator:	St Bede's Centre, York
Administrative and Biographical History:	<p>Purchased by Mother Ann Aspinal in 1781, what is now 21 Blossom Street was initially let out to tenants to provide much-needed income for the convent's work. In the 1960s it was returned to convent use, functioning as the school's 6th Form centre until 1985.</p> <p>Following changes to the Bar Convent school and organisation, the St Bede's Pastoral Centre was established in 1987 at the property. The Friends of St Bede's were established in 1988 as a charitable association, and the centre was staffed by Benedictine monks from Ampleforth until 1993. After a brief period of uncertainty, the CJ sisters took over its management in 1994.</p> <p>Brother Patrick Moore FSC was appointed director of the newly-revitalised centre, alongside Sr Mary Ann Flood CJ as administrator. Sr Cecilia Goodman CJ (1949–2017) first began to be actively involved in the centre from this date, inaugurating a programme of courses and events with a monthly course called 'Exploring Prayer'. This expanded into regular courses and events, and Sr Cecilia was eventually appointed Director of the Centre in 1996. Running the centre took place alongside her many other responsibilities to the province, and she was ably assisted by a team of religious sisters and lay administrators, including Sr Patricia Lane IBVM. Cecilia was also able to use her artistic gifts to the centre's advantage, creating and selling candles, photographic greeting cards and recorded retreats on CD.</p> <p>From 1997, Fr Bill Broderick SJ (1928–2005) began running the Personal and Spiritual Development (PSD) courses, a central feature of the work of the centre. Sr Louise le Marchand, who had worked closely with Sr Cecilia, took over as Director in 2002, a post she held</p>

	<p>until Cecilia’s return in 2005 following a sabbatical to the USA. Sr Cecilia resumed the role of Director in 2005, which she held until her sudden and unexpected death in 2017. The period was one of big changes for the centre, most importantly moving towards becoming self-financed by 2006, and the revitalised website was also launched in the same year.</p> <p>In 2012, a history of St Bede’s was published to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the centre, edited by Beth Harrison.</p> <p>In September 2017, Julia McDonald was appointed the first lay Director of the Centre, succeeded in 2023 by Paul Golightly.</p> <p>A garden was designed and planted by Fr Aidan Gilman OSB (1927–2018) in the late 1980s, adding much of the structure that can be seen today. Large-scale renovations were undertaken inside the house in 2004 with the addition of an updated central heating system, and again in 2018, including major changes to the chapel and prayer space.</p>
Archival History:	Collected by staff members at St Bede’s Centre. Retrospectively collected with the aid of Julia McDonald from 2019.
Scope & Content:	Material relating to the activities and functions of the centre, including material relating to its history and development. Further accruals are expected.
Arrangement:	<p>Arranged and catalogued by Dr Hannah Thomas from 2020.</p> <p>ACJ/SB consists of 7 series:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SB/1 Building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SB/2 Benedictines, 1987–1994</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SB/3 CJs (prev IBVM), 1994 onwards SB/3/1 Courses</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SB/3/2 Annual Programmes</p>

	<p>SB/3/3 Diaries</p> <p>SB/3/4 Papers relating to Fr Bill Broderick SJ (1928–2005)</p> <p>SB/4 Newsletters</p> <p>SB/5 Directors of the Centre, 1994 to present</p> <p>SB/6 Events and Celebrations SB/6/1 Events</p> <p>SB/6/2 Celebrations and anniversaries</p> <p>SB/7 Friends of St Bede's f. 1988 by Fr Geoffrey Lynch OSB (1926–2013)</p> <p>SB/7/1 AGMs and meetings</p> <p>SB/7/2 Trustees</p> <p>SB/7/3 Finances</p> <p>SB/7/4 Constitutions</p> <p>SB/7/5 Projects and Grants</p>
Conditions Governing Access:	By appointment only, and at the discretion of the Special Collections Manager.
Language of Material:	English;
Related Material:	See also ACJ/EP: Papers of the English Province; ACJ/MW: Mary Ward Collection and ACJ/BC: Papers of the Bar Convent. A history of the centre was published in 2012, entitled <i>The Story of St Bede's</i> (published internally).