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Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE that I have been back at the Cathedral 10 months already. Time flies and many things have changed during this time.

Many of you will have heard of the sad news of Barry Lock's passing. He was such a stalwart of the Cathedral and a champion of our beautiful mosaics. His was a familiar figure in the Cathedral and around the piazza and I am sure you share with me a great sense of loss. His funeral in the Cathedral, despite the Covid restrictions, was beautiful and celebrated with the hymns he loved. Cliona Howell has generously taken up the task of heading the Friends' Mosaics Committee and we are very grateful to her. She was at the crematorium to say goodbye to Barry along with Cathedral staff. I feel the 'baton' has been handed on, and Barry will be cheering on Cliona's efforts to further beautify our beloved Cathedral.



Last year, the Friends launched a Memorial Appeal in memory of Canon Christopher Tuckwell with funds allocated to communications – of which he was a great champion – and also to a permanent memorial, yet to be decided. After extensive deliberation, your Council feels that it would be most fitting to place a mosaic of St Martin de Porres in the Cathedral in memory of our dear Father Christopher which continues an already familiar tradition. Father Christopher had great devotion to St Martin de Porres. He chose him as his Confirmation saint, and he went on pilgrimage to his shrine. Among St Martin's many attributes is the fact that he is saint of health workers, a man noted for his kindness and nursing of the sick. I feel this is especially poignant and fitting given the times we have lived through with the pandemic. St Martin is also the patron saint of barbers as he used to cut the hair of beggars living on the street in his native Lima, Peru. This too resonates with the outreach the Church has to the homeless in Victoria.

It is a pleasure to welcome back Father Brian O'Mahony as Sub-Administrator. We have dragged him away from the birdsong and lovely parishioners of Northwood, and we are pleased that he brings his experience, talents, and good humour to this important role. I also wish to give a very warm welcome to Father Mike Maguire who is now the Precentor and he will introduce himself in the coming weeks. We are now a full complement of seven priests in the house; at one point in the summer, we were reduced to just five.

As always, I continue to ask for your prayers for the Cathedral. It is lovely to see more people at Mass. We are, as Father Christopher used to say, 'in good heart'.

My very warmest wishes to you and your families for the coming Christmas season. You are all in my prayers and in the prayers of my brother chaplains. Please, keep us and the Cathedral in yours.

With every blessing,

Fr Slawomir Witor

Administrator of Westminster Cathedral and Chairman of the Friends

Fr Slawomir Witor Administrator of Westminster Cathedral and Chairman of the Friends; Andrew Sanders, Vice-Chairman; Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer; with Elizabeth Gibson, Zoe Goodway, Patrick Gormley, Geraldine Kay, Simon Johnson, and Linda McHugh. Assisted by Cliona Howell, Chair of the Mosaics Committee, and Christina White, Director.

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral

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Charity number 272899

History Made Real

AS COVID UNCERTAINTY continued, we decided to keep our events online for the spring and summer season. We were blessed with some brilliant speakers, and I am very grateful to everyone who gave of their time to instruct, entertain, and illuminate the Friends. Council has decided that, going forward, a range of online events will continue to help us keep in touch with all those members who do not live within striking distance of London but whose friendship and support is very much appreciated.

Alison Weir started the season in March with her talk on the ill-fated Katheryn Howard, the fifth of Henry VIII's wives who lost her life in such tragic circumstances. Alison subtitled her novel, *The Tainted Queen*, and explained how Henry's obsession soon turned to revenge when he realised that he had been duped. Poor Katheryn. We await the last novel in the series on the enigmatic Katherine Parr, a survivor in so many ways.

Dr Rory O'Donnell gave a brilliant talk later in the month looking at the architecture of 100 years of Catholic emancipation from 1829 to 1929. He focused on the Cathedrals of Birmingham, Norwich, Westminster and Liverpool and the Abbey Church of Belmont. Brilliantly researched, the talk drew on a wealth of material with some fascinating illustrations. Dr O'Donnell will return in November with a talk on Buckfast Abbey.

Our Assistant Master of Music, Peter Stevens, also returned to the online arena with a concert of organ music for Lent and Holy Week. The programme included

works by JS Bach and Cesar Franck. We have asked Peter to repeat his very popular Advent organ recital which brought great Christmas cheer to many of you last year in the difficult days of lockdown.

Paul Pickering joined us in Holy Week for an art history talk looking at the depiction of the Cross – from the Catacombs to the Renaissance. He showed his immense knowledge with some beautiful and poignant examples and, also, some surprises. It was a compelling hour of art and faith.

I took advantage of the end of lockdown restrictions to visit the British Museum, to see the Sutton Hoo treasures. We are very grateful to archaeologist Martin Carver who gave a wonderful talk on the finds at Sutton Hoo, focusing on the famous 1930s dig begun by Basil Brown and then assessing subsequent digs and the treasures unearthed. It was interesting to hear him speak about the unusual quantity and quality of the fabric that was found; the largest and most varied collection of textile remains from any Anglo-Saxon burial. There was something very poignant about seeing up-close the weave of the linen twill. The talk, you may recall, was inspired by the Netflix film *The Dig*. Professor Carver observed that some of the archaeologists – notably Stuart Piggott – had been rather unfairly portrayed on screen. I can confirm that Basil Brown's contribution to the dig is now publicly accredited in the British Museum. Truly, he is the uncrowned 'King' of Sutton Hoo.

Fr Andrew Gallagher was our quizmaster after Easter and our quizzers battled it out with Linda McHugh triumphant. Fr Andrew left the Cathedral this month for his new appointment as parish priest, covering no less than three parishes: Our Lady Help of Christians, Rickmansworth; St John Fisher, Chorleywood and St John the Evangelist, Mill End. We are very grateful to him for all his help as Precentor. He was an enthusiastic quizmaster for the Friends and he embraced the online format. Good luck Father!

Professor Sarah Foot, of Christ Church College, Oxford, joined us in May for the first talk in a series based on the chapels of the Cathedral. Her talk was on the missionary saints of the early English Church, and she gave a quite brilliant lecture. It was even more impressive coming on the back of a lengthy college meeting and Professor Foot was quite hoarse by the end. She has several published works available at the moment and I strongly recommend these. A brilliant, brilliant talk.

Joanna Bogle introduced Felicity Surridge to us this year. Felicity has created a beautiful Mary Garden at her parish in New Malden and her illustrated book 'A Garden for Our Lady', published by Gracewing, provided the drawings to illuminate the talk. It was a lovely way to spend a summer evening looking at the plants of England with an historic connection to the Mother of Our Lord. Many of these were known of course to the monks of the Medieval monasteries and appropriately we finished our summer season with a talk by Dr Nick Holder of Exeter University on the ancient monasteries of London.

Dr Holder, formerly an archaeologist with the Museum of London, worked on the excavation of the Spitalfields cemetery - England's largest medieval cemetery. His entertaining and knowledgeable talk included numerous maps and drawings so that we could easily locate the foundations which were too sadly lost to the ministrations of Cromwell and his men.

We had hoped to round off the summer with a get-together after the annual Year's Mind Mass in memory of Canon Christopher Tuckwell RIP. Sadly, it was not possible to arrange a reception, but it was moving to see so many Friends at the Mass. We placed a photograph of Fr Christopher in front of the sanctuary. It was taken on Easter Sunday 2016; a poignant reminder of a loved administrator doing what he did best, surrounded by his flock on the steps of the Cathedral, and above all, delighting in his priesthood.

We have recordings of some of the talks held over the last season. If you wish to catch up, please email the office: friends@rcdow.org.uk and we can send the links. All the online talks cost £5 each with payment please via our VMG link or via cheque payable to the Friends of Westminster Cathedral.





Opera for an Autumn Evening

A NEW VENTURE for the Friends this autumn with a sparkling recital in the Cathedral Hall with acclaimed soprano, Alinka Kozari. Hungarian-born Alinka is a graduate of the Franz Liszt Music Academy Budapest, the Birmingham Conservatoire of Music, and the National Opera Studio, London.

Her operatic roles include Donna Anna Don Giovanni and First Lady Die Zauberflöte (BYO and Diva Opera), Adina L'elisir d'amore in Italy, cover title roles Mirandolina and Fiorilla Il turco in Italia (Garsington Opera), Lucille The Sofa and Babette in Biedermann and the Arsonists (Independent Opera), Sally Bones in Varjak Paw (The Opera Group), Walter La Wally and Berta Il barbiere di Siviglia (Holland Park), Countess Marriage of Figaro (ETO), Gilda Rigoletto, the title role in Händel's Agrippina (Iford Arts), cover for Phoebe Castor and Pollux (ENO), Rosalinde Die Fledermaus (Fulham Opera), Zerbinetta Ariadne auf Naxos (New Palace Opera) and Violetta La Traviata (Iford Arts, Diva Opera and Duchy Opera).

Alinka made her Hungarian State Opera House debut as Oscar in Verdi's Un ballo in maschera and was contracted for the role of Konstanze in Die Entführung aus dem Serail.

Our sincere thanks to Carl Penlington-Williams for his help in arranging this very special musical evening. He will be accompanying Alinka on the piano.

"Happily, that role (Violetta) was played with astonishing intensity by Alinka Kozári, brightly, strongly and securely sung, ..."

La traviata, Iford Arts
by Robert Thicknesse, Opera Now

"Alinka Kozári ...sang the role marvellously... She is a stylish Handelian...Her lilting 'Ogni vento'...was the highlight of her musically subtle performance."

Agrippina, Iford Arts
by Hugh Canning, Opera

"Alinka Kozari's chiselled cheekbones and chiselled coloratura combine to arresting effect in the shameless, scheming title role,..."

Agrippina, Iford Arts
by Anna Picard, The Spectator

"... some sparkling coloratura for Sally Bones (Alinka Kozári)..."

Varjak Paw, Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House, London
by Anna Picard, Independent

Venturing Out

FR AMBROSE HENLEY OSB returns later this month for a reflective talk, rooted in Benedictine Spirituality: 'Who Do You Say I Am?' He gave the wonderful homily at Mgr. Mark's funeral earlier this year and has a great love of the Cathedral. Many of you may remember him from his time as an intern in Clergy House. The talk will be online, but we are hoping to invite him back again next year when he will also be able to celebrate Mass for us.

Bryan Boese contacted me about a talk that he had given to colleagues at the Ministry of Justice on the history of Green Park and Victoria. This is very much our patch, and we will be hearing Bryan across two weeks – there is a lot of information.

Our first trip out in a very long time takes in the beautiful award-winning vineyard at Kingscote in West Sussex, and the equally beautiful Standen House, one of the Arts and Crafts jewels in the south-east. We had hoped to combine Standen with Sackville College, but the warden advised us that they still had concerns about visitors. We will leave Sackville for another day. When I totted up the costs it seemed expensive, but the price covers all the entry fees, tours and tastings, and includes lunch. I hope, as we have not been anywhere for so long, that you will sign up.

A first for us in October with a music recital, soprano Alinka Kozari accompanied on the piano by Carl Penlington-Williams. She is a renowned opera specialist with Verdi and Handel

particularly to the fore. This will be a precursor to a summer series of music recitals for 2022. More on that in the spring newsletter.

The historic Cathedral of Salisbury is our destination later in October. The Dean and Chapter have given permission for us to have a Catholic Mass in the Cathedral and Fr John Scott will accompany us to do the honours. In the afternoon we will visit the historic and very beautiful Catholic church of St Osmund, designed by AW Pugin. The parishioners will be giving us a cup of tea before our journey home.

Fr Christopher Clohessy will be familiar to many of you. For many years he has come to the Cathedral in the summer on supply whilst our chaplains head for a well-earned break. A renowned academic, he is at present a resident faculty member of PISA, lecturing there in Shi'ī Islamic studies, Qur'ān and Islamic Ethics, and is visiting lecturer at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome, where he lectures in Fundamental Theology, Ecclesiology and Mariology. His talk for the Friends will look at Praying with the Old Testament; Biblical Models for Effective Daily Prayer.

Our new sub-administrator Fr Brian O'Mahony had barely got into Clergy House when he was 'collared' and asked to take on the mantle of Quiz Master – a role so beautifully performed by Fr Daniel Humphreys and Fr Andrew Gallagher whilst we were in lockdown. Assured that he wouldn't have to write the questions (he knows our quiz setter

Barbara very well from Allen Hall), Fr Brian was persuaded with the thought of decent fish and chips and seeing lots of friendly faces. Please book now! We want the quiz to be a great success.

Dr Rory O'Donnell was a stalwart of our online community last year and he returns with another brilliant talk on Buckfast Abbey, its archaeology to 1539, and resurrection from 1882.

Paul Pickering has generously offered a real tour of the National Gallery looking at landscape and taking in the Bellotto exhibition which is currently on show. We will have tea afterwards – a welcome opportunity to catch-up after such a long time.



Paul also has two online talks for us – Poussin and the Dance at the end of November and then into December, French artists in Rome in the 17th century – the so-called Grand Siècle which covered the reigns of the French kings Louis XIII and Louis XIV. The National Gallery is staging a major Poussin exhibition this autumn and Paul's lecture will be a tantalising glimpse of what to expect.

There will be no Christmas Fair this year, but we will be present on 28 November at a SVP book sale in the Cathedral Hall. Please do pop in and support the SVP and the Friends. We will have some new Christmas items for sale.

The Big Give has dominated our year-end activities for the last five years and we return to online fundraising on 30 November. There will be a supper with the chaplains for all individual donors who give a minimum of £1000 to the appeal. We usually try and hold the Big Give supper before Christmas, but the date may slip into the New Year. Please bear with us; there have been so many changes of late. To date, we have raised over £160,000 with Big Give – let's smash our target and aim for £200,000. Funds will go to the complete refurbishment of the Cathedral Hall kitchen.

I decided this year that we ought to have a series of talks that relate in some way to the chapels of the Cathedral. I think hearing about the lives of the saints makes us look at the chapels anew. This was certainly the case with Professor Sarah Foot's brilliant talk on St Gregory and St Augustine – who could forget monks downing rosé and kicking their heels in southern France, reluctant to travel north. Sarah recommended our speaker for St Patrick's Chapel, academic Dr Conor O'Brien of Queen's College, Oxford who will be talking in February on St Patrick and the Saints of Ireland. Dr Conor hails from Cork and is an historian of the early Middle Ages, focusing on religious and intellectual history. He is particularly interested in the connection between religion and identity, and the ways in which theology can shed light on the people of the time.

Looking ahead, we have already set the dates for our free lunchtime recital series for the summer 2022: Music at The Cathedral Hall. Please make a note of the dates. Keep well and please, book early.

New Altar Frontals for Westminster Cathedral

AT THE HEART of Westminster Cathedral, visually and spiritually, is a 12-foot wide, 12-ton piece of granite, with a cross engraved into its front, and five crosses on its smooth, polished top.

I am referring, of course, to our High Altar; the focal point of the liturgical life of the Cathedral. It is testament to JF Bentley's genius as an architect that, in such a vast space, the eye is instinctively drawn to the High Altar where Mass is offered for us daily.

It is traditional to 'vest' an altar with the finest fabrics. Our High Altar is vested with silk frontals, or antependia, which cover the front of the altar and change with the liturgical seasons. The collection has been added to over the years and we have some superb examples of embroidery and appliqué. Notable examples include 'the very best red', bearing the arms of Archbishop Bourne, and embroidered in the Italian style, with passing thread; also, the so-called 'festal red' a dramatic set appliquéd in blue and yellow which was commissioned at the end of the Second World War to mark the allied victory. It is commonly and affectionately known as the 'Victory' frontal. Also of note, is the white 1920s frontal by Louis Grosse of Belgium, made with a pontifical High Mass set, with three large, striking circles of black, having at their centres the alpha, omega and chi rho. Because of its strong Christological symbolism this frontal is used for feasts of the Lord, such as the Transfiguration.

In addition to these fine examples of workmanship, we have simple frontals in each colour, for day-to-day use. Sadly, two of these frontals - the green and white (our

most used colours) - are showing serious signs of age. Both are around 60-70 years old, and they have served us well but now need urgent replacement.

Friends who regularly serve on the sanctuary will know that the green frontal is much patched, and now includes examples of no fewer than three different fabrics, and several different braids. It is also torn and missing the necessary hooks to attach it to the altar. The lining is also disintegrating rapidly, which has caused the fabric to drop quite considerably. This means that it bags at the bottom and looks very untidy. For a sacristan who prides himself on detail, it matters to me that the altar frontal does not hang correctly. The main fabric is in fairly sound condition however, and in the great spirit of 'make do and mend' we can re-use much of this material to rejuvenate our green weekday Mass sets which are made of the same silk (sadly, no longer available).

I will not mince my words with respect to the white frontal which is simply rotting. White silk was traditionally dyed using bleach which, whilst being effective and giving a fine colour, means that there comes a time when it simply starts to disintegrate, and there is nothing that can be done to stop it. Again, the fabric is tearing in places, and if not treated carefully the silk will start to flake off, and the entire frontal will fall apart on us!

The Cathedral has an honourable tradition of dressing the High Altar in the best quality fabrics and this principle has served us well. Sixty plus years for such regular use is impressive.



The sacristy is keen to maintain this tradition, and this is where the Friends can help. We want to replace our everyday green and white sets and have approached Watts & Co. (the best in the business) for a competitive quote. We need to raise £11,000 for the replacement frontals, matching lectern falls, and a gold lectern cover to match our best gold frontals. Friends who give £5000 or more to the campaign can have an embroidered

inscription placed in the linings. The Friends as a group will have their own inscription so every single donation will be honoured. Please help the sacristy. It is so important that Mass is celebrated with the greatest honour and reverence.

RICHARD HAWKER
Head Sacristan

For details of the altar set campaign please see P21

Mosaics Diary



I AM HONOURED to have been appointed as the new Chair of the Friends' Mosaics Committee and I am conscious of stepping into very big shoes.

Barry Lock was

a determined advocate for mosaic decoration in the Cathedral and cajoled, encouraged and persuaded potential donors to give generously. I served on the Friends' Mosaics Committee with Barry and Eddie Brittain, a former Chair of the Friends, for several years.

I am pleased to become Chair at an exciting time for mosaics. The design for St Patrick's Chapel is still under review but, as a native of Dublin, I have close contacts with the Irish community in London and I hope that as soon as a design meets approval we can advance the fundraising campaign.

Initial drawings for the mosaic in memory of Canon Tuckwell are very encouraging indeed. Mosaic commissioning and approval is a lengthy process, but I feel that the Friends are making progress in securing a fitting memorial for our late Administrator. The Art and Architecture Committee will have the final say.

Through the wonders of technology, I have already attended a Council meeting, joining from my garden in France. I think Barry would have approved.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the Friends' Office if you would like to support mosaics. We are always looking for new ideas and keen to enlist the help of people who share Barry's passion.

Thank you Council, for entrusting this important role to me.

CLIONA HOWELL
Chair of the Friends' Mosaics Committee

The beautiful Holy Souls Chapel of Westminster Cathedral. A focus for prayer in the month of November

Marie-Louise van Spyk: Meeting the Friends



THIS SUMMER WE welcomed a new face to the Cathedral staff: Marie-Louise Van Spyk, the new Cathedral fundraiser. Marie-Louise is new and yet familiar to us, because she worked a few years ago for the Diocese, travelling between parishes to help with parish fundraising. For the past three years she has been overseas in Christchurch, New Zealand. There she was tasked with fundraising to rebuild and strengthen parishes affected by the 2010-2011 earthquakes. She was also fundraising

to rebuild a new Catholic Cathedral for Christchurch, after the Blessed Sacrament Basilica was damaged beyond repair. As such she brings a wealth of fundraising experience and insights to help our own Cathedral.

As many of you are aware, Westminster Cathedral has been hard hit financially by the loss of donations from visitors over the pandemic. That, combined with the growing need for repairs and restoration, added to the usual operational costs of the Cathedral, means that the Cathedral faces a multi-faceted problem and Marie-Louise joins at a critical time to help address the growing deficit. With every challenge comes opportunity, so the Friends wish her well in her new role.

Marie-Louise said: 'I am delighted to be back on home soil and raising funds for the Cathedral. I used to come to Mass regularly here when working for the diocese previously, so it is a joy and a privilege to be involved. Being new in the role, I am particularly keen to meet and hear from long-term supporters of the Cathedral for information and ideas. This will inform our strategy moving forward as well as being a lovely thing to do!

The Friends play a very important role within the life of the Cathedral, so your views and support are especially valued. I hope to meet many of you at various events and Masses as more gatherings become possible with the ease of restrictions.'

MARIE-LOUISE VAN SPYK
mlvanslyk@gmail.com



Barry Lock RIP

BARRY LOCK HAD myriad interests: art, history, theatre, education, and opera. He was devoted to his old school The King's School Canterbury, and to his college, Magdalen, Oxford. He was a generous benefactor to both.

Barry's involvement with the Cathedral and the Friends began when he moved to a flat in Morpeth Terrace. He was a regular at the Sunday 8am Mass and his drawing room windows looked out onto the Choir School playground and a side elevation of

the Cathedral familiar to generations of Choir School boys.

His great passion was collecting historic miniatures especially those with a tale or history to tell. Maybe it was the level of detail contained in a small, elegant frame that appealed, but he had a keen eye and was well known amongst the dealers at the London antique fairs. This passion for detail, for colour and art, might explain Barry's devotion to Cathedral mosaics.

Barry served as a trustee of the Friends for over ten years, and in 2009 he established a Friends' Mosaics Committee and oversaw the fundraising for the mosaics of the Chapel of St George and the English Martyrs whilst personally, and in a private capacity, contributing to further embellishment by paying for the mosaic of St David in honour of his beloved mother Doris.

In the weeks before he died, Barry had introduced new donors to the Cathedral who were interested in paying for the mosaics of the baptistry and he spearheaded the campaign for the mosaics of the Chapel of St Patrick and the Saints of Ireland. He was determined to build a good seed corn fund on which to build a campaign and days before he died, he rang the Friends' Office for the latest tally. It is fitting that the family have asked that donations in his memory should be sent to the Friends' mosaics fund.

Barry travelled to New York in 2006 with Eddie Brittain to be present when the Cathedral Choir, as part of their American tour, sang for the American Friends of Westminster Cathedral. It was a valuable opportunity to thank the American Friends for their financial and membership support over the years, and he maintained a long-lasting friendship with Una Chang and Stan Metheny.

But it was as a raconteur, a teller of stories and sharer of tales, that many of us will remember him. He personally

'encouraged' many Friends' visits because of a desire to see a particular country house. An outing to Houghton Hall in Norfolk to see the paintings on loan from the Hermitage in St Petersburg, was inspired by Barry. He enjoyed the day trips, loved finding jars of homemade marmalade in a National Trust shop, and was in his element if there was a bookstall of some description. He looked forward to the lively discussions over lunch and tea, and he was loved by his travelling companions. He always bought strips of raffle tickets on the coach home. Every tale was prefaced with: 'My dear...'

Barry was known to so many in the SW1 area through his daily walks – often with purpose, to Clergy House to drop off another cheque to the Friends for mosaics in memory of a friend or family member, and more recently in lockdown to exercise, to enjoy the spring sunshine.

He was of a certain age, but he embraced technology and thanks to Charles's technological assistance joined in with Friends' events online and Council meetings on Zoom. Barry always maintained that he didn't have an email. In truth, he much preferred a phone call.

He is remembered for his kindness and friendship. He was genuinely interested in the lives of the people with whom he engaged. Always with a walking stick – sometimes an elegant cane with a silver top – he was often to be found at an event seated in a corner, deep in conversation with another 'oldie'. He gave people his time; a valuable commodity and a lesson for us all, and above all he was courteous.

It is a measure of the man that the receptionists at Clergy House remember him with such affection and were genuinely saddened at news of his death. He was a gentleman. A much-loved member of our community. May he rest in peace.

BARRY LOCK HAD an eye for beauty. I remember seeing him at Antiques Fairs at the Horticultural Hall in Vincent Square where dealers in miniatures would offer him a chair and he would be thoroughly engrossed by the delights they were offering for sale. As these Fairs were generally on a Sunday morning, I would have called in on my way home after Mass at the Cathedral and, spotting Barry in a corner, I would naughtily ask him why he too had not been at the mid-morning Mass. "Oh, I was at the 8.00 dear boy." He had been too.

He loved the cathedral and lived in a handsome flat in its shadow. It was here he kept and displayed his discriminating collection of portrait miniatures. Barry's attachment to Westminster Cathedral was, however, like Barry himself, far from miniature. Thanks to his energy, perseverance, and determination he majestically steered the Friends' Mosaics Committee. He fundraised, he chivvied, he lobbied, and he patiently observed progress (and non-progress) in fulfilling the long-held dream of decorating the interior surfaces of the cathedral with appropriately dignified mosaics. Ever the gentleman he tactfully persuaded potential donors of the justice of their gifts in helping to create objects of beauty that would speak of the loveliness of God and his saints. Consequently, we all owe Barry a huge debt of gratitude, but we also recognise the extent of his influence on the most memorable and lasting recent additions to the Cathedral's decorative scheme. Barry was a loyal and long-serving member of the Friends, a delightful travelling companion on jaunts and visits and ever a benign and kindly presence. We shall all miss him. May he Rest in Peace.

ANDREW SANDERS

BARRY LOCK HAD been a parishioner of Westminster Cathedral for many years and was a regular attendee at the Sunday 9am Mass and then the 8 o'clock when the 9 was stopped.

After deciding to take early semi-retirement in order to devote more time to the various charities he supported, he decided for the past two decades to focus his interest on Westminster Cathedral, becoming Chairman of the Mosaics Committee. As such he has been an assiduous fundraiser and the fruits of his efforts can be seen in the mosaic work in St George's Chapel, where he personally underwrote much of the financial costs from time to time. At the time of his sad demise he had been fundraising for the Chapel of St. Patrick and the Baptistry.

I first got to know him when we were both involved with the Friends of Westminster Cathedral and on the Council. Barry was a faithful member of the Friends and enjoyed many events and outings even when in later years his mobility decreased.

He was a gregarious person and was easily persuaded to join various Catholic charities, such as the Society of St Augustine of Canterbury and The Friends of the Holy Father; He was also a staunch supporter of the Ordinariate. He thoroughly enjoyed





attending the various receptions held by these organisations and engaging with the others there with similar interests. He was a mine of anecdotes and engaging memories of incidents from the past.

Barry was very honoured to be made a Knight of St Gregory the Great in Westminster Cathedral by Bishop Nicholas Hudson on 11 December 2019. Given his many years of outstanding fundraising for the Cathedral's mosaics it was a well-deserved honour. Rest in peace dear friend.

MARY MAXWELL

I HAVE KNOWN Barry for almost 20 years. He served on the Council of the Friends for about 10 years and as a former Chairman I found his support on fundraising and advice on legal issues affecting the Friends to be immense. He even travelled to New York with me in 2006 to be present when the Cathedral Choir, as part of their American tour, sang for the American Friends of Westminster Cathedral in New York. We were able to thank the American Friends for their financial and membership support over the years.

When he left the Friends Council in 2009 he formed a Mosaics Sub-committee

to seek funding and he continued as Chair of the Sub-committee to report to the Friends' Council. In this work he has been assiduous and successful.

He was a charming man who loved opera, music and theatre. His conversation was interesting and he always showed concern for and interest in the person he was with. I know he loved Chaucer so I quote "He loved chivalry, truth and honour, freedom and courtesy". He will be much missed.

EDDIE BRITAIN

I FIRST ENCOUNTERED Barry when I had just moved into Morpeth Mansions about 25 years ago and a very grand case of white Burgundy was delivered by mistake. I took the case around to his opulently furnished apartment which housed his collection of antique silver. He was very welcoming; he was always so interested in what was going on in the neighbourhood of the mansion flats in which we lived overlooking Westminster Cathedral. He had that lovely patrician manner and often addressed one as, 'My Dear'.

Barry was a tall imposing man who normally wore elegant double-breasted suits

and wore huge glasses, but he managed to reduce his weight so that as the years passed, he looked quite elegant. He took on the role single-handedly of raising money for the mosaics at Westminster Cathedral and he was a faithful supporter of the Cathedral.

He was a solicitor with clients who obviously trusted him implicitly and he could usually be seen with a very large and rather heavy briefcase often making his way to the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Barry was the most generous and hospitable person. Together with his partner Charles, he was known for his entertaining always with fine wine and food though I can't imagine him cooking anything himself. I remember one party where he had bought the most elaborate prepared food from Harrods - quails' eggs in aspic, foie gras, accompanied with lovely wine - though Barry had given up drinking on doctor's orders.

He gave a huge party at his club, the Athenaeum, for his eightieth birthday to which he invited his many friends who clearly all had great affection for him. He was one of the great characters of Westminster and we will miss him dearly.

PETER SHEPPARD

THE DEATH EARLIER this year of HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, brought home that sense of an old order dying away and so it is with the unexpected, untimely passing of Barry Lock.

Barry's manners were of a different age. He had time for everyone and was, as every gentleman should be, as courteous to the pauper as to the prince. I walked up into my local park after I heard the news of his death. It was the most beautiful spring day, with lovely blue skies, and I made my way around the perimeter of the park, trying to make sense

of his absence. We do not know the hour; how often we hear those words. I am thankful that Barry is at peace and reunited with family and friends – especially his beloved mother. In that very old-fashioned sense, he had a good death; quietly, without fuss, after a weekend of reminiscences when he, I am sure, watched the funeral from Windsor.

Barry had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Royal Family, and the wider aristocracy in Britain and Europe. He was an avid reader and there was always a fact to impart, a tale to tell; he loved gossip, in the gentlest sense. A friend described him as, 'the most avuncular person I have ever met'. It summed him up beautifully. He was an uncle to the Cathedral, a raconteur and companion to all.

Some of the kindest comments came on the Facebook page as people recalled sitting next to him on a Friends' outing, sharing a cream tea, sitting in the sun waiting for the coach. He was a man of infinite talents who wore his learning lightly and was happiest sharing a story. Whenever a friend died, in lieu of flowers or a payment to a charity of which he had never heard, he would send a donation to the Friends for mosaics. Each handwritten letter came with a short explanation of the life extinguished, even the most tenuous of connections. I loved the sweet letters with cheques attached 'with grateful thanks to St Anthony' for the recovery of a lost letter, a briefcase, spectacles.

Every tiny piece of tesserae that will decorate Westminster Cathedral in the months and years to come will be testament to his spirit and love of this place. Goodness Barry, we seem lost without you. You were the pole star at the Cathedral, the ever-present, reassuring presence who loyally attended so many Friends' events. The vault of heaven is yours.

CHRISTINA WHITE



IN AID OF



NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

PRESENTS

BOHEMIAN Rhapsody

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Streetwise Opera

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Endpoint

THIS SEASON IS ALL about fundraising for the Friends. Richard Hawker came to see me to ask if the Friends might pay for new altar frontals. We have form in this department, having paid for the 'consecration set' when Archbishop Nichols was installed. As Richard explains on P10, in his first Tales from the Sacristy column, the main green and white sets are worn ragged. Council has decided that the Friends will raise funds for the green set, in memory of Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue; and the white set, in memory of Mgr. Mark Langham. If we exceed our target, spare 'green' funds will be allocated to the St Patrick's Mosaics Appeal and spare 'white' funds to the mosaic in memory of Canon Christopher. Please make your cheques payable to The Friends of Westminster Cathedral and specify which set you are supporting. We can place an embroidered tag in the lining for all donations over £5000, and we will also have a Friends' tag to recognise everyone who donates to the appeal. I am sure you will be generous.



In the run-up to Christmas, our major fundraising project is Big Give. The refurbishment of the Hall kitchen is at long last in the diary for 2022 but we urgently need to raise further funds to make this a reality and give the Cathedral a facility fit for purpose. Please support us. This is our sixth year of participation in Big Give and to date, we have raised over £160,000. A magnificent achievement. My thanks to everyone who has supported the online giving campaign.

Virgin Money Giving will be no more from 30 November. We had just got used to it! A new online payment system will be in place on the website shortly but in the interim, we may have to return to cheque, card or bank transfer payment. We have decided to bring back Life Membership. Council appreciates that keeping up with sub renewals can be a pain and it is easier and simpler to make a one-off payment. Single Life Membership is now £720, and Joint Life Membership is £960. Remember, you can also buy membership as a gift for a friend or family member.

I penned my own tribute to Barry Lock earlier in the newsletter, but I want to sign off with a particular memory. In common with Canon Christopher, Barry inspired many of the Friends' days out including a trip to Leicester and Bosworth Field (he was a loyal Ricardian). It's a fair old walk around the battlefield and Kevin Greenan gamely offered to push Barry in a wheelchair. Off they set, with Barry proclaiming: 'A horse, a horse...my kingdom for a horse!' Godspeed, good friend x

Events Schedule: A

24 September: Fr Ambrose Henley OSB of Ampleforth Abbey: Who Do You Say I Am? Praying with Scripture. Online talk 7pm. Tickets £5

28 September: Online talk with Bryan Boese, first of two: The History of Green Park and Victoria Part 1, 7pm. Tickets £5

30 September trip: Kingscote Vineyard and Standen House. Coach will depart from Clergy House at 8.45 am. In the morning we visit Kingscote Vineyard for a tour and wine tasting followed by a ploughman's lunch. In the afternoon we travel to Standen, a famous Arts and Crafts property with a beautiful garden. Tickets £65 (includes all entry fees and lunch – please indicate when booking if you are a member of the National Trust, as that will enable us to save on the entry fee)

4 October: Online talk with Bryan Boese, second of two: The History of Green Park and Victoria Part 2, 7pm. Tickets £5

5 October: Evening music recital in Westminster Cathedral Hall with Alinka Kozari soprano, accompanied on the piano by Carl Penlington-Williams. Doors open at 6.30pm and the concert will start at 7pm. Pay bar. Tickets £10

13 October: Trip to the beautiful city of Salisbury by coach leaving Clergy House at 8.30am. Fr John Scott will accompany us and will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral. After free time for lunch, we meet back at the Cathedral for an introductory talk and tour. Later in the afternoon we will visit the beautiful Catholic church of St Osmund, designed by AW Pugin. We will have tea before returning to London. Tickets £35

29 October: National Gallery: A Walk Through Landscape with Paul Pickering. The tour will also include the Bellotto exhibition. Meet at the entrance to the Sainsbury Wing at 1.45pm. Tea to follow. Max 12. Tickets £25

3 November: Fr Christopher Clohessy Praying with the Old Testament: Biblical models for Effective Daily Prayer: Online talk live from Italy 7pm. Tickets £5

4 November: Mass for Deceased Friends of Westminster Cathedral. 5.30pm.

9 November: Cathedral Quiz with fish and chip supper in Westminster Cathedral Hall. Fr Brian O'Mahony, our new Cathedral Sub-Administrator, in the chair as Quiz Master: Pay bar. 7pm £15



Autumn/Winter 2021

10 November: Buckfast Abbey, its archaeology to 1539 and resurrection from 1882. Online talk with Dr Rory O'Donnell 7pm. Tickets £5

24 November: Online art talk with Paul Pickering: Poussin and the Dance 7pm. Tickets £5

30 November - BIG GIVE Christmas Challenge in aid of the Westminster Cathedral Hall Community Project. This year we are raising further funds to refurbish the Hall kitchen. The appeal ends on 6 December. thebiggive.org.uk

1 December: Online art talk with Paul Pickering: French artists in Rome in the Grand Siecle (17th Century) 7pm. Tickets £5



2022

16 February: Live from Queen's College, Oxford, Dr Conor O'Brien on St Patrick and the Early Saints of Ireland. This is the second in our series of online talks based on the chapels of Westminster Cathedral 7pm. Tickets £5

Please keep the date:

Music at The Cathedral Hall.
Four summer lunchtime recitals for 2022.

21 April,
5 May,
19 May
2 June

How To Book

Virgin Money Giving - our preferred payment option - is ceasing operation on 30 November 2021. If you wish to pay via our VMG site, please do so before this date. Remember; you may pay in advance for all the season's events in one go. A new online payment option will be available shortly via the new website.

All payments after the 30 November should be made either by cheque (payable to The Friends of Westminster Cathedral) or card, or via bank transfer. Email the office friends@rcdow.org.uk for details.

Payment for an online event admits one person only. Please be generous if more than one person is attending with you, and make sure we have an email address for you so that we can forward the Zoom link to the event. We are sorry, but you will not be able to access online events without internet access and an email address.

It is really important that you provide contact details when booking for all events. The last 18 months have seen lots of last-minute changes and we need to be able to contact you directly if further Covid restrictions affect our events programme.

Support Westminster Cathedral



Join The Friends Today

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Please return this form to: Friends' Office, Clergy House, 42 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW
or scan and email to friends@rcdow.org.uk

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