

Spring is
in the air...

Oremus

The Magazine of Westminster Cathedral

A quality publication offering intelligent, informative and interesting articles aimed at Catholics and non-Catholics alike, as well as all those who visit and worship at the mother church of England & Wales.



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Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral

On our recent Friends' visit to Winchester Cathedral we were welcomed by a member of the Chapter who gave us a succinct and informed guided tour of the architectural wonders of the church. The Cathedral also offered us an altar in the Lady Chapel where Canon Tuckwell said Mass. It was a moving occasion, surrounded as we were by paintings showing the life of Our Lady and in near proximity to the particularly grand tombs of certain of the mediaeval bishops. Winchester was a rich diocese and its bishops built themselves splendid chantry chapels. Our Mass, said according to a modern rite and in English rather than Latin, seemed to express a continuity with the rich faith that had determined the nature of the ancient Cathedral, and with its fittings.

The Canon had stressed the continuity that she felt marked the life of her Cathedral. Founded in Anglo-Saxon times by the Kings of Wessex, the great building had been reconstructed and expanded on several occasions; the Normans had left their mark as had the bishops who had transformed the Nave into a superb example of perpendicular architecture. Such were the ambitions of its medieval builders that they put a considerable strain on the Cathedral's water-logged foundations; cracks appeared in the walls and the great church was in a state of near collapse by the early years of the twentieth century. Nevertheless, as our Anglican guide boasted, the Cathedral was proud of an unbroken 'continuity' of worship that stretched back more than a thousand years.

Over lunch a member of our group of visitors privately questioned this claim of unbroken Cathedral worship. The monastic community which had served the mediaeval Cathedral and determined much of the nature of its ritual had been dissolved in the mid-sixteenth century and the ancient rites had been radically disrupted by the introduction of new liturgies and by communal prayers in the vernacular. Sculptures were smashed and paintings whitewashed. In Cromwell's times the order of bishops had been abolished, Cathedral chapters dissolved and the use of the Anglican Prayer Book forbidden. An observant modern visitor might admire the beauty of the modern Cathedral's choral worship, and the evident love and respect that mark all aspects of the interior; but somehow Winchester Cathedral continues to bear the scars of periods of radical disruption and discontinuity.

Worshipping in Winchester's Lady Chapel we visitors from Westminster Cathedral were briefly at one with the mediaeval monks, priests and bishops who had shaped its ancient rhythms of prayer. We were linked too with our Anglican brothers and sisters in a distinctive kind of prayerful continuity, sharing so much but well aware of painful separation. Yet we were able to cherish our particular faith in a living, working Christian community which, alas, does not share full communion with us. No 21st century Catholic prelate would want the dire financial responsibility of the upkeep of Winchester Cathedral, and, I am sure, no administrator of Westminster would happily exchange his duties for those of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester. Gone are the days when English Catholics were obliged to eschew the 'taint' of an Anglican church, but that day in Winchester reminded me not of unhappy divisions, but of new responsibilities. In its own splendid pattern of worship Westminster Cathedral properly proclaims not just 'continuity' with the past but a daily renewal of an unbroken tradition of worship, and the Friends are there to help support that vital celebration of a living faith.

Andrew Sanders
Vice-Chairman of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral

...Looking back

Our autumn events kicked off with a tour of the Houses of Parliament led by our own Paul Pickering. A change in tour regulations at the House of Commons meant that sadly this was Paul's last parliament tour for the Friends. He did not disappoint. Those who attended spoke enthusiastically of his knowledge and attention to detail. It was a brilliant way to end his parliament series for us.



In October we also enjoyed a much-anticipated visit to The Speaker's House, by kind invitation of the Speaker, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP. Over 70 friends gathered at the House of Commons for the reception which took place in the lavishly decorated rooms that face the river. The Speaker was most welcoming to the Friends and gave a pithy and witty speech. It was an enjoyable evening as Friends and chaplains chatted and enjoyed the delicious and plentiful canapés that were on offer. Our thanks go to Elizabeth Gibson for organising the event. It was a memorable evening and a real privilege to be at the heart of the Palace of Westminster. Guests were given a goody bag on departure with an anniversary booklet and a copy of the Westminster Cathedral Choir's latest CD.



We held another curry quiz in October – anathema I know to the stalwarts of the fish and chip supper. The curry night has its own devotees and Claudette was on hand with a delicious supper with naan breads; poppadoms and chutneys were on the tables. The curry quiz will in no way supplant Mary's quiz and fish and chip suppers – we

just thought it would be nice for a change. Another quiz with a difference is planned for the early autumn.

Paul was back guiding for the Friends with his Grand Tour of the National Gallery in November. We were in the footsteps of the intrepid travellers of the 18th and 19th century who sought artistic inspiration in the squares and galleries of Europe. The group concluded with tea and cake in the National Gallery restaurant and the artistic discussions continued. Paul has built up quite a following for his art tours and we have more planned for the year ahead



In 2017 the Friends visited the Christmas Fair at Waddesdon Manor – the country house of the Rothschild family. We were blessed on that occasion with glorious winter weather. Sadly our visit to Winchester for a tour of the Cathedral and Mass followed by a visit to the Winchester Christmas Fair was not so blessed. The weather was foul and the intrepid few who made it round the various stalls soon found succour in the adjacent cafes and hostellers.



We received a very warm welcome at Winchester Cathedral however and benefitted from some excellent tour guides. It is a beautiful Cathedral with a fascinating history and a lovely gift shop. Canon Christopher celebrated Mass for the Friends in the Lady Chapel by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter. It was a most moving celebration.



theBigGive.org.uk
helping your donations go further

The £1000 plus donors to our Big Give Appeal for the Cathedral Hall refurbishment project gathered in Clergy House at the end of November for a private supper with Canon Christopher and the chaplains. Kate Williams was our chef for the evening and she provided a delicious supper with a spinach and quail's egg salad, boeuf bourguignon and citrus and almond cake to follow. We met our target this year which means that we have a very good chance of securing further support for the project in 2019. Our thanks must go to all the Friends who donated online to the project – every donation counts.

The Friends organised the Christmas Fair again in 2018 and avoided the snowstorms of 2017. This is a major commitment by the Friends but is welcomed by parish and parishioners. We must give special thanks to the members of the Cathedral's Grandparents' Association who took over the running of the Cathedral coffee and tea stall and provided some excellent cake. They looked most festive in their banners and helped to bring a particular joy to the event. Zoe Goodway, Patrick Gormley and Linda McHugh were tireless in their support of the fair. We put a call out for helpers on the Saturday to set up the fair and thank you to those who gave up their weekend to help. Thank you for all those who gave donations – we struggled with donations this year so please, if you are clearing out items suitable for a Christmas Fair, donate unwanted goods to the Friends c/o Clergy House reception.



Our autumn/winter events carried on into January with Evensong and a private tour of Westminster Abbey with the Dean, the Rev Dr John Hall. The Dean retires in 2019 and we were very grateful to him giving up his time to show us the treasures of the Abbey. His diary is looking increasingly busy as retirement approaches and he gave us a wonderful tour. The Abbey does not stand still – it is very much at the centre of national worship – and we were interested to see the more recent additions including the grave of Professor Stephen Hawking and the new David Hockney window commissioned to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Our tour included a visit to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries – a marvellous addition to the Abbey interior. The sprightly amongst the group climbed the stairs to the galleries but there is also a lift available. The gallery space gives the Abbey room to

display more of its treasures. We were very taken with the wood and plaster effigies of kings, queens and princes – carried in solemn procession at state funerals. Our visit concluded with a wine reception in the Jerusalem Chamber where Canon Christopher made a presentation to the Dean on behalf of the Friends. We shall miss him but wish him a very happy retirement.

Before the newsletter went to press the stalwarts of the quiz and fish and chip supper gathered for a February quiz in the Cathedral Hall. Fr Daniel Humphreys gamely took the chair as quiz master and dealt with the hecklers with great efficiency. The fish and chips from The Laughing Halibut were especially good. We are asked if the quiz is a good event for singletons to attend – the answer is a resounding yes! Mary will place you on a team of like-minded quizzers so please do come along and pit your wits against the other tables.

Looking forward...

Our spring season has already started with a day trip to Our Lady of Victories, Kensington and the newly-restored Leighton House with our guide Paul Pickering. It was a small but enthusiastic group that gathered at the High Street Kensington church for Mass on St David's Day and we were then treated to a tour of the church by Fr Daniel, the new curate. He explained that the church's dedication was an historic reference to Our Lady's perceived help in securing victory for the Christian forces at the Battle of Lepanto. The forces of the fleet of the Holy League, under Venetian control, were urged to pray the rosary before engaging the attackers from the Ottoman Empire.



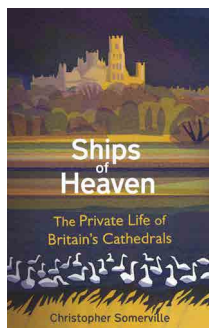
After a light lunch at The Scarsdale Tavern we visited Leighton House – the London home and studio of the celebrated Victorian painter Frederick, Lord Leighton. The house has recently undergone extensive restoration. The contents were sold on Leighton's death but there has been an effort to restore the rooms to convey an impression of the original interiors. I noted that a new wooden sideboard with Lapis Lazuli roundels was commissioned from the furniture maker Luke Hughes who provided the bespoke furniture for the Song School, generously paid for by the Friends.



We try every year to arrange a number of London tours and trips – these negate the need for a coach and thus help us to keep the costs down. There seems to be support for Mass and a tour of the Brompton Oratory in the near future. Please keep an eye on the website – these London tours are often arranged at relatively short notice, outside the twice-yearly mailing of the newsletter.

Paul Pickering is back in action for us on the 29 March with an art tour at the National Gallery focusing on the development of the altar piece from the 13th century to the Baroque. There will be tea and cake for those who haven't given up sweet treats for Lent.

As Easter approaches we are delighted to welcome Christopher Somerville to the Cathedral Hall for the launch of his new book – *Ships of Heaven: The Private Life*



of Britain's Cathedrals. I was fortunate to see a review copy and he has written most movingly about Westminster Cathedral. Christopher is perhaps better known for his writing on rambling and walks for The Times newspaper and he brings to this latest work his wonderful attention to detail and reflections on nature and stone. Books will be on sale and he will be signing copies after the talk. Please book early.



On into May and we have a very special day trip arranged for Tuesday the 28th, the day after the Bank Holiday. Winchester College is giving us a private tour of their Medieval Buildings and Treasury and this will be followed by a Mass in the school chapel to be celebrated by one of our chaplains. Hoping for good weather, we are asking Friends to bring a packed lunch which we can enjoy on the riverbank. Those who enjoy walking, are in the spirit of the Medieval pilgrims encouraged to walk the water meadows to our afternoon venue, the historic Hospital of St Cross (don't worry, the coach will drop you off if you don't care to walk). We have a private tour of the almshouse arranged with one of the resident brothers, and then afternoon tea before our departure for London.

Winchester College needs little introduction – it is one of the most celebrated public schools in England and its alumni, known as Wykehamists after the founder William of Wykeham, include Fr Henry Garnett, the poet Matthew Arnold and Anthony Trollope. The school was founded in 1382 and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Evelyn Waugh said of his Wykehamist contemporaries: *These Wykehamists have the kind of mind that likes to relax by composing Alcaics on the moving parts of their toy trains.*

The Hospital of St Cross has been described as England's 'oldest and most perfect almshouse' and dates from the 12th century. The chaplains at Clergy House had a day out here last year and this has inspired



our visit. Interestingly there is a connection with Trollope who is said to have based the title character of *The Warden* on a former Master of the Hospital. The book was the first in his *Chronicles of Barsetshire*. The Hospital maintains the ancient tradition of offering a cup of beer and a piece of bread to any wayfarer who calls at the Porter's lodge. We will pray for good weather as the setting and grounds are beautiful. The Hospital provides a unique glimpse into Medieval and Tudor life.



On June 4 Alison Weir returns to the Cathedral for her book *Anna of Kleve: Queen of Secrets* – the fourth in her series on the wives of Henry VIII. Why not Anne of Cleves, I wondered? Alison answers the question on her website:

'But Anne of Cleves was actually called Anna; even Henry VIII wrote her name that way. And, if you google Cleves, you will get Kleve (pronounced Klayva), which is the correct spelling. I wanted to set Anna in an authentic German context and, as the novel is written from her viewpoint, it seemed only right that she would think of her homeland as Kleve, rather than Cleves.'



Alison has promised some surprises in the book: she maintains, for example, after some detailed research that it is a 'myth' that Anna was a committed Lutheran. Alison will be on hand to sign books after the talk; it is always a pleasure to invite her to the Cathedral and she is always interested to meet and talk to her readers. Refreshments will also be available.

This has been a busy year in the Cathedral and Mary was unable to organise a fish and chip supper and quiz for the summer so we have stepped into the breach and taken on the challenge. It will be lacking her panache but I hope you will still support the event on June 11. We have a curry quiz organised for the autumn so this will be the last fish and chip supper event of the summer season.

I met Rory O'Donnell, member of the Cathedral's Art and Architecture Committee, at the recent Westminster Abbey event. Talking in the Jerusalem Chamber after our tour he said he would be keen to lead a trip to Ingatstone Hall – historic house of the Petre family. At Rory's bidding we have this set up for the 4 July. We visited Ingatstone some time ago but Rory is focusing the visit on the history of the recusant Petre family and our day will also include a visit to the Petre chantry chapel at Old Thorndon Hall, and the beautiful Thorndon Country Park which previously formed part of the estate. Canon Christopher will be celebrating a house Mass in the Hall using a recusant altar that was used in penal times.

We have a ploughman's lunch with juice, tea and coffee arranged and included in the ticket price.

It is some time since we have arranged a tour of the Cathedral for the Friends and there are new and varied mosaics on display. Anne Marie Micallef has generously offered us an evening tour on Wednesday 11 September which will start in the tower with its magnificent views over London; we will then continue with a private tour after the Cathedral has closed. There will be a glass of wine and light refreshments to follow.

On 24 September we have the return of the curry quiz with various varieties of curry available. People enjoyed the poppadoms and dips on the tables. The curry is made by the awesome Claudette – known for her generous portion sizes.

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral have again been invited to attend the National Conference of Cathedral Friends which this October is being held in Peterborough. I was delighted to attend in 2017 representing the Friends and there were a number of interesting talks on a variety of subjects including GDPR. As a result of the last conference two years' ago we were invited to Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford – a very pleasant trip in April 2018. I hope we will build further relationships and will be able to arrange another tour. It was also good to meet up with other Catholic Friends – including the Friends of Arundel.

Dates for your diaries

the Cathedral Summer Fair is on **Saturday August 3** and the Cathedral Christmas Fair, organised by the Friends, is on **December 1**. Please do bear us in mind if you are having a spring clear-out.

Mosaics update

St Patrick's Chapel Mosaics



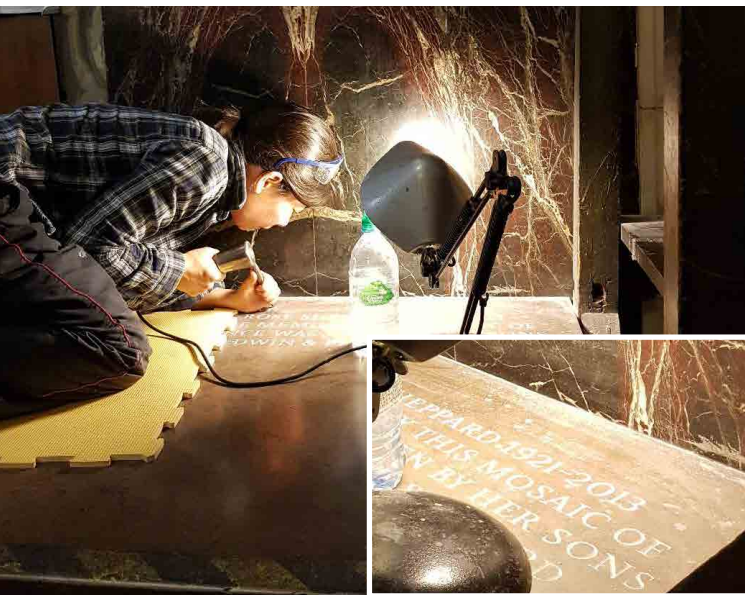
I understand that the Cathedral's Art and Architecture committee is engaged with a designer who has produced some preliminary work which is looking very promising. He has now been working on more comprehensive designs and I hope that I shall have more to report in the autumn newsletter.

Until we have an approved design it is difficult to launch an official appeal for donations. In the meantime, we continue to nurture the St Patrick's Chapel Mosaics Seedcorn Fund. It gradually grows with help from the collecting box outside the chapel and from individual donations – for example, last year it received a donation of \$1000 from the American Friends.

So let us celebrate 17 March; let those of us with Irish blood in our veins, or of Irish sympathies, add to the fund by dropping donations into the collecting box outside the chapel or by sending cheques or CAF vouchers (however modest) to the Friends' Office c/o Clergy House. Thank you for your on-going support of Cathedral mosaics – the recently completed mosaics of St George's Chapel are an illustration of what we can achieve together. Your friendship to the project is much appreciated. *Happy Feast Day St Patrick!*

Barry DS Lock

Chairman of the Friends' Mosaic Committee



Ayako Furuno was hard at work in the Cathedral this month carving a memorial inscription under the mosaic of St Laurence in the Sanctuary. She has also worked on the donors' plaque in St George's Chapel and will shortly be applying a colourwash to the lettering so that the inscribed names are clearer to read. Her work is really exceptional; she is a gifted sculptor and artist in addition to the letter cutting and stone carving. To see other examples of her work visit the website: ayakofuruno.com/gallery



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I wish all donations that I have made and any future donations I may make, to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I inform you otherwise.

For more membership forms, please contact the Friends Office on +44 (0) 20 7798 9059 or friends@rcdow.org.uk or visit us online at www.westminstercathedral.or.uk/friends.php

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Support the Cathedral Hall Appeal



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Please tick this box if you Gift Aid your donation. The Friends can claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every pound you give. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in UK income tax and/or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

I wish all donations that I have made and any future donations I may make, to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I inform you otherwise.

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The friends
OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

BEQUEST TO THE FRIENDS OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

The donations that we make to Westminster Cathedral and the projects that we undertake benefit greatly from members remembering the charity in their wills. Anyone considering leaving a bequest may find the following notes helpful.



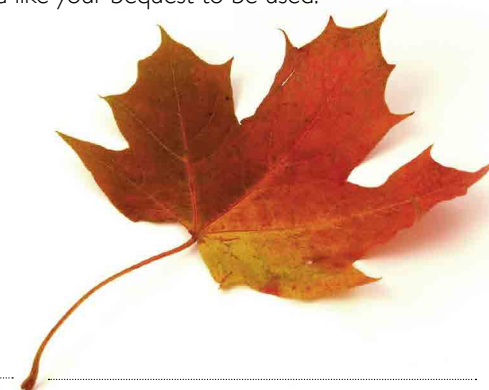
Because the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is a registered charity bequests are exempt from inheritance tax, and can help to reduce the overall inheritance tax liability of your estate. If you would like to remember Westminster Cathedral in your will and wish to continue to support the work of the Friends the following wording may be useful:

I give to the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral (Reg. Charity No: 272899), Clergy House, 42 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW, the sum of £..... Free of tax, on trust, for such charitable purposes. In connection with the Friends of Westminster Cathedral as the Trustees in their absolute discretion think fit, and the receipt of the Treasurer or other officer of the Trust shall be a full discharge to my executors in respect of the same.'

If there is a particular project that you wish to support such as mosaic decoration in the Cathedral then you may specify how you would like your bequest to be used.

For further details please do not hesitate to contact the office on **0207 798 9059**, and we will be pleased to help.

Thank you for your generosity.





For the Diary: Calendar March 2019 – September 2019

Friday March 29: The Development of the Altar Piece – From the 13th Century to the Baroque. 2pm tour of the National Gallery with Paul Pickering followed by tea and cake. Meet in the lobby of the Sainsbury Wing at 1.45pm. Tickets £20

Tuesday April 11: Talk by Christopher Somerville of The Times on his book, Ships of Heaven – The Private Life of Britain's Cathedrals. Westminster Cathedral Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm; talk at 7pm. Refreshments to follow. Books will be on sale. 'A truly wonderful, uplifting book, bursting with life' - Nicholas Crane. Tickets £10

Tuesday May 28: Private tours of Winchester College and the ancient Hospital of St Cross – the oldest and most beautifully preserved almshouse in England. Coach will depart from Clergy House at 8.15am. Please bring a packed lunch. We have been given special permission to celebrate Mass in the Winchester College Chapel. Afternoon tea booked at the Hospital. Tickets £50

GIFT AID (UK)

If you're a UK taxpayer, you can add an extra 25p to every £1 you give - at no cost to yourself - with Gift Aid. Friends Gift Aid forms are available from The Friends Office
Telephone: **0207 798 9059** Email: friends@rcdow.org.uk Charity number: 272899

The Council: Canon Christopher Tuckwell, Chairman; Andrew Sanders, Vice-Chairman; Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer; Linda McHugh, Chair of the Cathedral Hall Appeal; assisted by Oliver Davey, Elizabeth Gibson, Geraldine Kay; Nicholas Morrell and Euphrasie Munde-Kilolo. The Council is aided by Barry Lock, Chairman of the Mosaics Appeal group and Christina White, Director.

Tuesday June 4: Talk by Alison Weir on Anna of Kleve: Queen of Secrets. This is the latest book in the historian's series on the wives of Henry VIII. Westminster Cathedral Hall. Doors at 6.30pm and talk is at 7pm. Drinks and book signing to follow. Tickets £10

Tuesday June 11: Quiz and fish and chip supper. Westminster Cathedral Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm and the quiz is at 6.45pm. Tickets £15

Tuesday June 25: Friends of Westminster Cathedral AGM. Westminster Cathedral Hall. 6.30pm

Thursday July 4: Coach trip to Ingatestone Hall – the life of a recusant English family. Coach departs at 9.15am. We will visit the historic Petre family house where a house Mass will be celebrated. Lunch is included. In the afternoon we visit the Petre chantry chapel at Thorndon Hall and the Thorndon Country Park designed by Capability Brown. Tickets £50 (please advise when booking if you are a vegetarian)

Saturday August 3: The Westminster Cathedral Summer Fair

Wednesday September 11: Friends Tour of the Cathedral and the Cathedral Tower. Tour will start at 6.30pm with a trip to the top of the Tower – the main tour of the Cathedral will take place after the Cathedral has closed. Refreshments will follow in the Clergy House Library. Tickets £25

Tuesday September 24: Quiz and curry supper. Westminster Cathedral Hall. Doors at 6.30pm and Quiz begins at 6.45pm. Tickets £18

KEEP THE DATE

Sunday December 1:

Westminster Cathedral Christmas Fair organised by The Friends of Westminster Cathedral

For detailed information on all the events listed please ring the Friends' Office on: **0207 798 9059**. Regular updates are also posted on the Cathedral website www.westminstercathedral.org.uk, in the weekly Cathedral parish newsletter and on the Friends' Facebook page.

Design: GADS Ltd



I was listening to the radio this morning and heard an interview with Debbie Wiseman MBE, the composer of the theme music for the BBC's acclaimed *Wolf Hall*. Leaving aside Hilary Mantel's rather biased portrayal of Cromwell – at the expense of our beloved St Thomas More – the series was notable for its attention to detail: wonderful atmospheric locations, sumptuous fabrics and some fine acting.

By happy coincidence we have arranged a trip to The Hospital of St Cross as part of our Winchester trip in May. The Hospital, the oldest almshouse in England, was used extensively as a location for *Wolf Hall*. Wiseman revealed that she writes music from the heart – reacting to the character and the location. The Hospital has long provided succour to weary travellers and it seems its reach continues. I hope we have fine weather.

There have been changes in the Cathedral of late. The donors' plaque has finally been installed in St George's Chapel and I was fortunate to come across Ayako Furuno – the stonecutter – at work on another donor's plaque beneath the very fine mosaic of St Laurence. It is fascinating to watch her carving the letters with such skill and such precision. She works quickly with a rapid 'tap, tap, tap' of the chisel. It is gratifying to see that the Cathedral still supports such workmanship in the spirit of the Arts and Crafts movement which inspired much of the interior design. At the time of writing, we are waiting for the donors' plaque to be positioned in the Tower Viewing Gallery and over the coming months new information panels will also be installed.

Please bear with us for a final blessing and Mass of thanks for both projects. The Cathedral is understaffed at the moment and we must wait until later in the year. Thank you to all the Friends who so generously supported the appeals. Finally, the Dean of Westminster Abbey, Dr John Hall, gave us a wonderful tour in January. We wish him well for a very happy retirement.



*St Joseph's Mass in Lourdes during the Westminster
Lourdes Pilgrimage*

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