

Towards the Christmas Season



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Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral

I am writing this in the first week of September when we celebrate the feast day of St Gregory the Great. It was Gregory, who, according to the Venerable Bede, described the English slave-boys he met in Rome as potential 'angeli' (angels) rather than mere 'angli' (Angles or Anglo-Saxons). But Gregory was far from a just a fanciful and distant admirer of the English. It was he who sent one of his monks, Augustine, to bring the pagan English to the Catholic faith and the land in which they had settled back into the European Catholic fold. The Roman Province of Britain had fully embraced Christianity and had sent bishops from London and York to international Church Councils. Now Gregory yearned for the northern island to fully return to the Faith. It was Augustine who, as Archbishop of Canterbury, became the first of this renewed order of English bishops loyal to the Pope in Rome.



Whenever I am in Rome I try to make time to visit Gregory's church on the Caelian Hill. In the church is the ancient Roman throne associated with his papacy; in its precinct are three chapels linked with his once influential monastery and in its cloister-like forecourt are monuments to English Catholics who lived in Rome at the time of the Reformation. The church and its surroundings are serene for relatively few tourists venture here. I am forcefully reminded of the Caelian Hill and its church whenever I visit the chapel in Westminster Cathedral dedicated to Gregory and Augustine. In the Westminster chapel are portraits of the Pope and his English Archbishop and there are vivid images of Augustine's mission in Kent. It is a pleasure too to see representations of two further saints who mean a lot to me: Saint Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede. Both men are buried in the cathedral at Durham which I know well, and it is Bede's account of Gregory's passionate patronage of Augustine's missionary enterprise that is the most resonant element in his great History of the English Church and Nation.

Let us ask for the prayers of all four saints, particularly at this awkward time in British politics when so many people cry out for unity and purpose. May they pray too for continued blessings on this land of potential 'angels,' for the English Church, for its priest and bishops and for the congregations in their charge. Let us all pray too for the well-being of our Cathedral and for the continued recovery of our chairman, Canon Tuckwell.

Andrew Sanders Vice-Chairman of the Friends of Westminster Cathedral



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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 Zoe Goodway, Geraldine Kay; Nicholas Morrell and Euphrasie Mundeke-Kilolo. The Council is aided by Barry Lock, Chairman of the Mosaics Appeal group and Christina White, Director.

Front cover image: Petre Family Chantry Chapel © Christina White

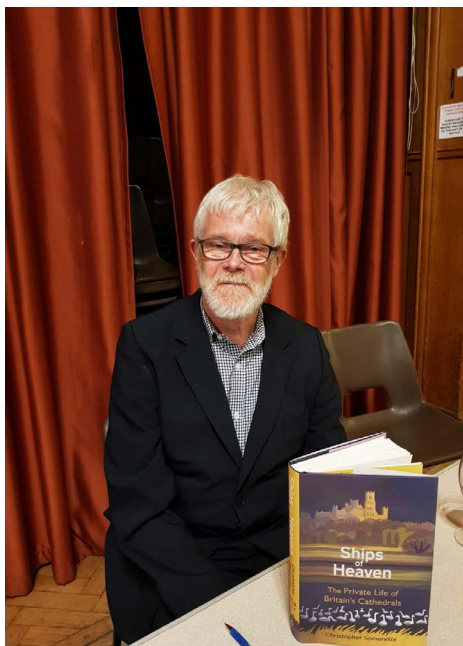
...Looking back

Our spring season began with a Paul Pickering tour of the National Gallery that looked at the development of the altar piece from the 13th century to the Baroque. The tour was on the 29 March, supposedly the day of Brexit, and Trafalgar Square became the focus for noisy demonstrations for and against leaving the European Union. Paul coped with the chaos with his usual aplomb and showed how the focus of devotion for altar pieces changed with the introduction of saints that reflected the sponsor's individual interest or devotion.



The group convened for tea and cake afterwards and the talk was not of politics but of art. Well done to everyone who managed to arrive on time.

We were delighted to welcome the writer Christopher Somerville to the Cathedral Hall in April for a talk on his latest book: *Ships of Heaven – the Private Life of Britain's Cathedrals*. Christopher is perhaps better known for his rambles for the Times and it is through walking, accompanying him on riverbank or through wooded valley, that most of us know him. His sister Julia



Somerville was the interviewer for the evening, providing some amusing anecdotes on the family dynamic – Christopher is her younger brother. There were comic tales of warring Cathedral chapters, of humanist embroiderers repairing sacred copes for the love of needle and thread, of volunteers and helpers, but Christopher couldn't resist talking about walking, of strolling through wheat fields with the soaring spire of a cathedral ahead. His book is dedicated not just to the ancient stones of England; Westminster Cathedral is included and also Coventry. He pleaded with us not to mosaic the lofty interior of our Cathedral which benefited, he said, from its dark and mysterious appearance. A large and appreciative crowd gathered to get their

copies of the book signed and Christopher was generous with his time. We have invited him back.



Walking featured in our trip to Winchester College and the Hospital of St Cross in May. A few friends decided to follow the meandering path through the water meadows to the Hospital and were rewarded with the beauty of the Hampshire countryside in the shadow of St Catherine's Hill. This area of the county is blessed with the cool, clear water of the chalk lands and we saw young speckled trout in the eddies of the river; and a profusion of waterside plants – bright yellow pops of iris and clouds of cow parsley.



It seemed appropriate to walk to the historic almshouse given its reputation for restoring the weary traveller with a chunk of bread and a sip of ale. Encountering the building on foot is to approach it the way the pilgrims of old saw it first – across a meadow maybe, with cattle grazing and rabbits darting in the early evening light. It was only on leaving that we realised how close the Hospital is to a busy 'A' road; its orientation towards the river and the

chalk hills make it a place of gentle solitude. We visited in the wake of the Chelsea Flower Show and it was refreshing to see an old-fashioned garden, with blowsy English climbing roses and great swathes of lavender.

We had been entranced in the morning with the majesty of Winchester College and its impressive treasury. The graffiti alone, names carved with great industry into the ancient timbers of the cloister, make for impressive reading. The staff and helpers of the College provided a fascinating tour and Fr John Scott accompanied the group to celebrate Mass in the school chapel. Sombre, dramatic and oh so clever; Winchester College leaves its mark. 100 boys of the current roll are Catholic and we were made to feel most welcome.



Past Events



Another welcome return in June as Alison Weir came back to the Cathedral Hall with her book on Anna of Kleve. The queen who survived displayed a certain Tudor savviness when it came to negotiating a property settlement and she was to inherit Hever Castle from the disgraced Boleyn family, and Richmond Palace.

Alison's research is always thorough so we were treated to some intriguing new insights into the queen who was rejected for her lack of beauty –although Henry seems to have appreciated her character and wit, and played cards with 'his sister Anne'.

Thomas Cromwell had been the prime mover and shaker in securing the alliance between his king and this daughter of Kleve and her rejection post-marriage secured his downfall. Cromwell of course had

been especially keen to align England with the protestant duchys of Europe; Henry certainly seems to have been rejected by the Catholic princesses, mindful of his reputation.

The English chronicler Holinshead described Anne as 'a ladie of right commendable regards, courteous, gentle, a good housekeeper and verie bountifull to her servants'. Alison will return in 2020 with her book on Katherine Howard; a rather different prospect.

An appreciative crowd gathered for the quiz and fish and chip supper later in June. Mary Maxwell was sadly too busy to organise this offering so with some trepidation we stepped into the breach. The restricted table size (limited to eight) seems to be working well giving more teams a chance to take the top prize – or in this case, a bottle of wine each. Fr Daniel Humphreys was an excellent quizmaster and we must thank Lorcan Keller as wingman and the marvellous Barbara Smith who set a





taxing but most enjoyable quiz. The quiz will return in October with curry, poppadoms and naan bread on the menu courtesy of Claudette.

July saw the return of blistering hot weather in London and it was lovely to escape the heat of the city for the gentle countryside of Essex for our visit to Ingatestone, the home of the Petre family. Lord Petre, the 18th baron and owner of Ingatestone Hall, met us at the house gates and warmly welcomed the group. Ingatestone is rare in England for its continuous association with one family through centuries of religious and political upheaval. The founder of the dynasty was Dr William Petre, one of Cromwell's men,



who as proctor was assigned the task of valuing the monasteries of the South East and allocating the spoils. He identified the site – in beautiful verdant countryside – as a choice location for his manor house; the true architectural representation of his ambition, brick by brick. William was a survivor in every sense. He was absolved from the Interdict of Excommunication imposed on those who had so maliciously plundered the faith on condition that he built almshouses which stand today.

William Petre's successor John was made a Baron for his efforts but the family hereon seems to have lived a quieter life and kept their heads down, and kept their religion. There are proven links with the celebrated musician and Catholic William Byrd and the house's numerous priest holes bear testimony to the family's support of the faith.



Richard Hawker, the Cathedral's new Head Sacristan, deserves a special mention for kitting us out with the most glorious and historic Mass items including a beautiful Tudor chalice and vestments decorated with pre-Reformation embroidery. Ingatestone no longer has a chapel and Mass was celebrated in the drawing room using a table that the family believe was used for Mass in penal times. It was very moving and we remembered Canon Christopher in our prayers and prayed for his well-being and recovery from illness.



We had arranged a Ploughman's lunch in the comfortable dining room – an expert move given the heat of the day – and then the group split into two for a guided tour of the house and grounds with our guides. We left reluctantly; scurrying for shade as the temperature soared.

We were accompanied on the trip by Rory O'Donnell, a key member of the Cathedral's Art and Architecture Committee, who has been closely involved with efforts to save and restore the Petre family Chantry Chapel which is located a short distance from Ingatestone in Thorndon Country Park. We thank him for his contribution to this newsletter (Pages 10 & 11) with an article on the chapel and for facilitating our visit. It marked the end of a memorable day.

Mary organised a brilliant summer fair raising funds for the Cathedral in August and many members of the Friends helped on stalls or donated items. A goodly sum of nearly £6000 was raised. Please keep us in

mind for the Christmas Fair on 1 December – donations are now being accepted.

Our last event of the season, as summer crept into autumn, was a tour of the Cathedral led by Anne Marie Micallef and Louise Sage. The group was invited to take the lift to the top of the tower and then, as the Cathedral closed its doors, undertook the tour. Wine and sandwiches were consumed post-event in the Clergy House Library. Anne Marie was asked if we might next time include the crypt and a 'secrets' tour will be arranged for the summer season 2020. Thank you to both guides for their excellent and thoughtful contributions.

Our Big Give Appeal this year is for the completion of the Tower Viewing Gallery with new information boards and historic background on the building of the Tower and the characters who were involved. Please be generous. Details of the appeal will be on the Cathedral website and in the newsletter closer to the event.

The Friends at work

Over recent years the Friends have contributed to the restoration and preservation of some of the Cathedral's most precious books and the task of saving the library has fallen to our indomitable archivist Miriam. Thanks to the efforts of Una Chang and the American Friends the work of preservation and cataloguing continues. I was delighted to meet Miriam and her colleague in the Long Corridor assessing another box of books.



The Friends hold an annual fundraising Big Give Supper in the Clergy House dining room at the kind invitation of Canon Christopher so we were well aware of the need to replace the rather shabby curtains and to get chairs re-upholstered. Bernie Young, our head of maintenance, scaled the heights to prepare the curtain tracks for the new curtains; all paid for through the generosity of the Friends.

'Becalmed in a Last-Century Greyness'

Dr Rory O'Donnell led the Friends on a visit to Ingatestone and Thorndon Park in July. One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the Petre family chantry chapel.



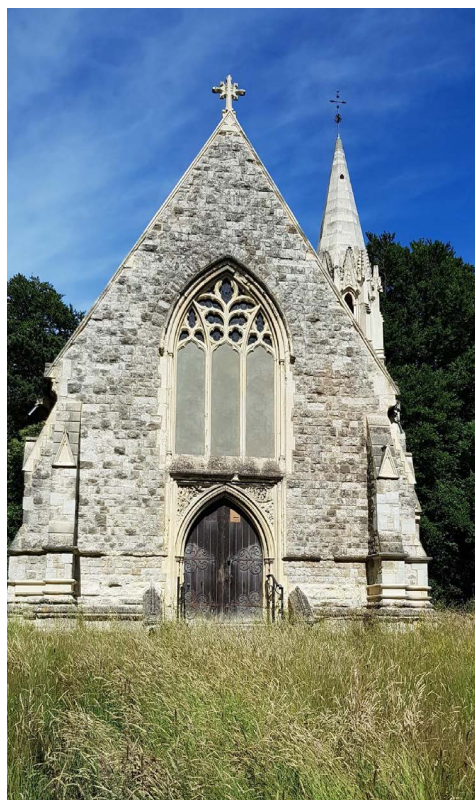
The Friends made enthusiastic and intrepid pilgrims at the Petre Chantry on 4 July 2019.

The building they found is a mid-nineteenth century mausoleum or burial place for the Petre family. The 18th Lord Petre sold it to the Historic Chapels trust in 2010 and that group is half way through its restoration. The stone work has been repaired, the roofs sorted and the tower and spire rebuilt. The interior has not yet been tackled, and the windows are still bricked-up.

It was the 12th Lord Petre who decided to tackle the problem of the burial of himself and his successors by building a new chapel in then extensive grounds of his seat, Thorndon Hall. His family had been buried in Ingatestone Parish church since the death of the founding Sir William Petre in 1572. Here despite Reformation changes the staunchly Catholic family continued to bury and memorialise themselves. But the family chapel there was now full. Lord Petre thought of new chapel in the grounds of what is now Brentwood cathedral, but then decided on the much more private setting of the park. He went to the Catholic convert architect WW Wardell, whose recent work in London – our churches at Clapham, Hammersmith and Greenwich, as well as SS Mary and Michael Commercial Road Poplar; he may have known. Wardell designed a convincingly scaled and detailed

chapel in Kentish rag stone with plain tile roofs. The building is a gabled single 'cell' with a sacristy and bell-tower; with a brick-built burial chamber beneath. The dates are 1856-8.

I have been working on this church since 2012, when the HCT asked me to research and write the guide to the building. Alas its publication is delayed by problems within the Trust, whose activities are for the moment shall we say 'prorogued'? My over-familiarity





with the building and its problems made me – as Christina White will attest – somewhat apologetic about dragging a party of bus-weary visitors to the difficult of access site, but you were not disappointed. Perhaps it was the drama of turning the key into the darkened church to see revealed in the half light its wonderful carved and painted roof, or the melancholy of the partly vandalised altar?



The burials are those of the 12th Lord and his Lady, their arms emblazoned in encaustic tiles on the central moveable floor platform, which descends by a hydraulic power into the crypt. Subsequent burials were those of his

two sons, the eccentric 13th Baron who was Monsignor Lord Petre, and his brother the 14th Baron, a notable supporter of the building of Westminster Cathedral. The 15th Baron was killed on active service in France in 1915 and is buried there. Family burials continued until 1965 but thereafter the decline of the building began. But the most extraordinary burial is that of the 3rd Earl of Derwentwater; executed for his role in the

1715 Jacobite rising. Reputedly, offered his life if renounced his religion, his firm refusal makes surely at least a confessor of the faith? Derwentwater was a collateral ancestor of the 12th Lord, who brought his and other bodies from the family chapel at Dilton in Cumbria. Remarkably none of these notables are recorded with the usual pompous or pious wall tablets that one would find in contemporary Anglican churches. The 12th Lord was determined to avoid that route, and instead to make the building itself, its decoration and function, the memorial, following Sir Christopher Wren's dictum on St Paul's cathedral, 'is monumentum requires, circumspecte'. Only the stained glass windows – now lost – held such dedications. But you clearly reacted to the fact that you were in a holy and religious space, as we spontaneously fell into saying the *de Profundis* prayers for those buried here.

Dr O'Donnell has been a member of the Cathedral Art and Art Committee since 1992. He has written the guide to the Petre Chantry Chapel for the Historic Chapels Trust



Henry VIII – The Decline and Fall of a Tyrant

‘That’s enough Tudors,’ said Fr John Scott when I suggested we might have another talk focusing on the bloody reign of Henry VIII.

Not quite. Dr Robert Hutchinson’s book focuses on the latter years of the Tudor king and it is compelling and rather grittier than most. There is a tendency for even the stuffiest of historians to get carried away with the swishing skirts and love intrigues

of Henry’s various consorts. Hutchinson however is made of steelier stuff.

Within a few pages we learn that Cromwell went to the scaffold alongside Walter, Baron Hungerford;

stands supreme here in his knowledge of Katherine and his detailed examination of Spanish primary sources. But Hutchinson is, Katherine aside, excellent on detail. Henry’s relatively benign death unwittingly confirmed a Tudor tradition that the true villains ‘died peacefully in their beds, while many decent men suffered violent ends’. Hutchinson’s narrative begins with the death of Cromwell – so we are spared the much-told love story and the brutal deposition of two queens.

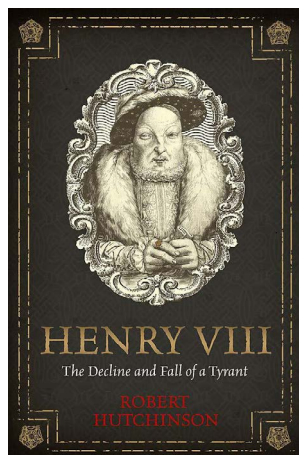
I feel the final words on Henry VIII belong to Cardinal Reginald Pole. Hutchinson quotes the good Cardinal in the introduction:

‘Your butcheries and horrible executions have made England the slaughterhouse of innocence.’ Quite.

Robert will be coming to the Cathedral in September to talk about his book. Books will be on sale and the author will be signing copies.

Christina White

Robert Hutchinson’s talk on *Henry VIII: The Decline and Fall of a Tyrant* is in Clergy House Library on 24 September. Tickets £10.



the first to die for the ‘abominable vice of buggery’ under legislation that Cromwell himself had overseen seven years previously. Hungerford’s main crime was treason but the additional felonies were contrived scandalous enough to present Cromwell’s death as ‘the most ignominious in the country’. Cromwell’s pleadings: ‘I cry for mercy, mercy, mercy’ were ignored.

Hutchinson’s account of the king’s bloody revenge raises some interesting ideas. I’m not convinced I hold with his retelling of the malicious gossip that Katherine of Aragon was the cause of syphilis in the King. Giles Tremlett



Looking forward...



Historian Dr Robert Hutchinson kicks off our autumn/winter season on 24 September with a talk on his book *Henry VIII – The Decline and Fall of a Tyrant*. Robert is the author of eight critically acclaimed books on the Tudor period which have been translated into 11 languages. He is a regular broadcaster on international television and has acted as historical consultant to a number of programmes and popular authors of fiction. His doctorate is in church archaeology and he specialises in the archaeology of the Reformation. Books will be on sale and Robert will be signing copies after the talk and enjoying a glass of wine. Come along and meet him.

Our new Head Sacristan Richard Hawker has generously agreed to give up an evening for the Friends with an exclusive tour of the sacristy and the opportunity to see some of the Cathedral treasures. Since his arrival earlier in the year, Richard has been up to his elbows (literally) in boxes of 'Mass stuff' and he has unearthed some wonderful vestments



© Fr Lawrence Lew OP

and items of Church plate. He has genuine interest in the life and work of the sacristy and will explain his important role here at the Cathedral. There will be a glass of wine and nibbles to follow in the Clergy House Library. He really has transformed the sacristy and that includes scrubbing out the sinks!

On October 1 we have the curry quiz with a difference. Please feel free to bring your own bottles of vintage claret or Indian lager. We will charge £1 corkage per bottle and ask that you are very generous with the purchase of raffle tickets. There will be some wine and soft drinks available to purchase. Claudette is catering and we have the choice of chicken madras, lamb korma or a vegetable biryani.

Forthcoming Events: *Autumn/Winter 2019*



Please indicate your culinary preferences when booking. If you really cannot stomach curry, Claudette will provide a vegetarian alternative. Fr Daniel is back in the hot seat as quiz master and we have cajoled Richard into joining him as wingman as Lorcan is on leave. Our thanks to Barbara for setting the quiz.

On October 10 we have a day-trip to the beautiful Aylesford Priory in Kent. The Priory was founded in 1242 and parts of the Medieval foundation survive including the Prior's Hall; the prayerful Cloister Chapel and the Courtyard with the Pilgrims' Hall which stands beside the river Medway. The outdoor Shrine to Our Lady with four chapels leading off the Shrine has some of the finest religious art to be seen in England. Aylesford Pottery founded by David Leach is also on site.

Following on from the Ingatestone trip in the summer, many of you have expressed a preference for a slightly later departure time and the coach will be leaving for Aylesford at 9.30am. We will have Mass at the Priory and have arranged a Ploughman's lunch. There will be a guided tour in the afternoon. Sometimes we have no option but to leave early in the morning – trips to Birmingham and beyond will always necessitate an early start - but please enjoy the more relaxed day at Aylesford.





October sees the canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman which will take place in Rome on Sunday 13 October. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be leading Ecumenical vespers in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 19 October with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev Justin Welby. The Friends have arranged a Halo Party in the Cathedral Hall to mark the event which will take place directly after Vespers. Newman was born in London so we have a special claim on England's first saint in more than 50 years. Vespers will be open to all and will commence at 3.30pm.

Continuing with the Newman theme we are delighted to welcome Fr Nigel Woollen to the Cathedral in November for his talk: Newman and the Rosary. There is a tendency in some quarters to downplay Newman's devotion to Catholic traditions and practice but a firm advocate of the rosary and encouraged its use.

Fr Nigel Woollen, is originally from London but was ordained a Catholic priest in Ars,



France, at the Shrine of St John Vianney. He studied biblical theology in Rome and worked for some years in retreat centres in France and Italy, and at the Knock Shrine in Ireland. He is currently assistant priest in Stevenage. He is the author of a number of books including *The Lamb Will Conquer: Reflections on the Knock Apparition* and *Learning to Love: Journeys through Life with the Rosary*. Books will be on sale at the event.

Forthcoming Events: *Autumn/Winter 2019*



Paul Pickering kicked off our summer season and he returns in November for a London tour. We have booked tickets for the London Mithraeum, an archaeological site in the heart of the City. After a sandwich lunch we will convene at the Guildhall for a guided tour of the art collection and, continuing the Roman theme, a visit to the amphitheatre below ground. There will inevitably be a lot of walking involved so please do bear this in mind before booking. Those who don't wish to walk between sites are welcome to avail themselves of public transport.

Sunday December 1 is the date of the Cathedral Christmas Fair; please give us your donations and do support us on the day.



We will be looking for volunteers to help set up on the Saturday and to man stalls on the Sunday. It is a joyful event and raises much-needed funds for the Cathedral. We are looking for expert chutney, jam and cake makers. Homemade produce is one of the joys of a fair – please do help.

Monday December 9 is the date of our Big Give Donors' Supper with the chaplains of Westminster Cathedral. This event raises much-needed funds and has been well supported in the past. Donors must give £1000 each to gain an invite as places are strictly limited. We only have so many chairs around the Clergy House dining table. Details of how to donate to the Big Give Online Appeal will be released later in the year. The appeal starts on Tuesday 3 December and closes on Tuesday 10 December. We were successful in reaching our target last year. Please do support us – all donations, big or small are very gratefully received.

Looking ahead to 2020 we have a talk from Oxford professor Diane Purkiss in the Cathedral Hall on 24 February. Diane has some very interesting things to say about Brexit, politics and religion and draws an interesting comparison between Elizabeth I and Brexiteers, and Remainers and St Edmund Campion. She is a professor of English at Keble and has written extensively on the Civil War.

Anthony Weaver has offered us a tour of historic Clerkenwell on Friday 6 March commencing with Mass at St Etheldreda's, followed by a fish and chip pub lunch and visits to the Museums of the historic Charterhouse and the Hospital of St John. This will be a full-day walking tour that will also include a visit to the beautiful Italian church of St Peter's. Anthony is a font of knowledge on the area so be prepared for entertaining diversions as we walk around.

And further...

At the time of writing we are hoping to arrange a St Patrick's event in the Hall for 2020. This may be on the 17 or possibly a St Patrick's Eve party on the 16. Do please keep the date (s). As Barry Lock has indicated, we are waiting for news of the approval of the designs for the mosaics of St Patrick's Chapel. Hopefully there will be something additional to celebrate on the feast day of Ireland's national saint. There will be further details in the Spring newsletter but please check out the Cathedral website, the weekly newsletter or the Friends' Facebook Page for updates. For those who really like to plan ahead we have a visit booked to the Beth Chatto Garden near Colchester for June 11, 2020. Summer will be here before we know it...



Trustees' statement

The trustees confirm that the above financial summary is taken from the full accounts approved on 3 June 2019. The summary may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral. Copies of the full accounts on which the independent examiners have reported without qualification and which will be delivered to the Charity Commission may be obtained free of charge from The Friends of Westminster Cathedral, 42, Francis Street, London SW1P 1QW.

Canon Christopher Tuckwell
Chairman

3 June 2019

Independent Examiner's statement

I have reviewed the above financial summary and are of the opinion that it is consistent with the accounts of the Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral for the year ended 31 December 2017 on which we gave an unqualified independent examiner's report.

Nigel Searle
Richardson Watson and Co.
Chartered Certified Accountants
Crosspoint House
28, Stafford Road
Wallington
Surrey SM6 9AA
19 June 2019

Treasurer's report

Dear Friends,

After all the activity of the 40th anniversary year in some ways 2018 was quieter from a financial point of view.

In 2017 we made major grants of over £100,000 each for the Mosaics in St George's Chapel and for the replacement of the Song School furniture both funded from reserves brought forward. This reduced the accumulated fund from £208,374 to £98,540 which the Council consider to be more in line with the Friends' requirements given the state of completion of the two major projects of the Tower Refurbishment and St George's Chapel Mosaics. The Cathedral Hall refurbishment is at a relatively early stage and will be dependent on that appeal raising its own funding rather than being partly funded from general reserves.

Since the accounts for 2018 were completed the final accounts for the Tower refurbishment have become available. It is important that the Tower and associated Cathedral Exhibition are well developed as income generating assets for the Cathedral. Final costs are going to be over £100,000 of which we hold £41,104 in reserves. In order to fund some of the balance this year's Christmas Appeal through the Big Give matched giving campaign will be for the Tower.

We have continued to pursue the Cathedral Hall refurbishment project incurring £16,846 of preparatory fees. We should have an agreed scheme early next year when the Hall appeal will be relaunched and hopefully with the Tower costs fully paid.

Meanwhile the St Patrick's Chapel Mosaics appeal makes steady progress. Thank – you all for your support for the Friends and Westminster Cathedral.

Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer
16 September 2019

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Summarised accounts: – Income and expenditure – Year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Income		
Subscriptions	17,827	17,164
Net income from events	16,249	22,329
Donations	45,265	82,426
Legacies receivable	13,000	10,041
Interest receivable	813	704
Income tax recoverable	4,241	4,662
	97,395	137,326
Expenditure		
Fundraising and publicity	997	1,728
Cathedral Hall costs	16,846	1,875
Cost of operating The Friends	56,810	51,483
Expenditure before grants	74,653	55,086
Net income raised	22,742	82,240
Grants payable		
Grants to Cathedral	7,608	243,449
Net (outgoing) / incoming resources	15,134	(161,209)
Fund balances at 1 January 2018	318,710	479,919
Fund balances at 31 December 2018	£333,844	318,710

Balance sheet – As at 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Current assets		
Stocks	984	918
Debtors	39,243	40,652
Cash at bank and in hand	405,585	411,492
Total current assets	445,812	453,062
Less current liabilities	(111,968)	(134,352)
Net current assets	333,844	318,710
Total net assets	£318,710	£318,710
Restricted funds		
Mosaics General Appeal Fund	32,889	32,841
Mosaics St George's Chapel	57,098	56,867
Mosaics St Patrick's Chapel	15,177	3,721
Total Mosaics Funds	105,164	93,429
Cathedral Hall Refurbishment	94,767	82,647
Winter Night Shelter	1,002	1,001
Cathedral Fabric Appeal	1,598	1,596
Total restricted funds	202,531	178,673
Unrestricted funds		
Designated fund Tower	41,104	41,497
Designated fund cathedral Hall	10,000	–
Designated Funds	51,104	41,497
Accumulated fund	80,209	98,540
Total unrestricted funds	131,313	140,037
Total funds	£333,844	£318,710

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 3 June 2019

Canon Christopher Tuckwell Chairman



Mosaics update

Dear Friends of Cathedral Mosaics

As reported at the Friends' AGM in June, a design for St Patrick's Chapel has been approved by the Art and Architecture Committee and the Cardinal, and it has been sent to the Historic Churches Committee for approval. I am told that the Committee meets during October so hopefully by Christmas we should have an approved design and I will be able to report further in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, please continue to make your contributions to the seed-corn fund either through the Friends' Office – cheques should be made payable to 'The Friends of Westminster Cathedral' – or place donations in the Friends' Collecting box outside St Patrick's Chapel. We are now up to £22,000 with gift aid payments from HMRC still to come.

I am also pleased to report that the Art and Architecture Committee is also giving thought to the mosaic projects following St Patrick's Chapel which should mean that, in future, we will have shorter gaps between projects so that the remaining mosaic works in the Cathedral will be completed more swiftly and JF Bentley's vision for the Cathedral will be realised. The design chosen for St Patrick's Chapel is very fine and I am sure it will meet the approval of the Friends.

Barry DS Lock, Chairman of the Friends' Mosaic Committee

As reported at the Friends' AGM in June, a design for St Patrick's Chapel has been approved by the Art and Architecture Committee and the Cardinal, and it has been sent to the Historic Churches Committee for approval. I am told that the Committee meets during October so hopefully by Christmas we should have an approved design and I will be able to report further in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, please continue to make your contributions to the seed-corn fund either through the Friends' Office – cheques should be made payable to 'The Friends of Westminster Cathedral' – or place donations in the Friends' Collecting box outside St Patrick's Chapel. We are now up to £22,000 with gift aid payments from HMRC still to come.

I am also pleased to report that the Art and Architecture Committee is also giving thought to the mosaic projects following St Patrick's Chapel which should mean that, in future, we will have shorter gaps between projects so that the remaining mosaic works in the Cathedral will be completed more swiftly and JF Bentley's vision for the Cathedral will be realised. The design chosen for St Patrick's Chapel is very fine and I am sure it will meet the approval of the Friends.

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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.

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**

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 September 2019

Tuesday 24 September: Henry VIII – The Decline and Fall of a Tyrant. Talk by historian Dr Robert Hutchinson in the Clergy House Library. Please come to Clergy House Reception for 6.30pm. Talk at 7pm. Tickets £10

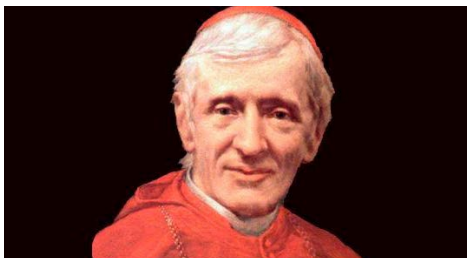
Wednesday 25 September: Private tour of the Sacristy with the new Head Sacristan Mr Richard Hawker who will be explaining his role and talking about some of the Cathedral's greatest treasures and items of historical interest. Afterwards there will be refreshments in the Clergy House Library. Please come to Clergy House Reception for 6.30pm. The tour and talk will commence at 6.45pm. Tickets £25

Tuesday 1 October: Friends' Curry and Quiz. Westminster Cathedral Hall. Doors at 6.30pm and the quiz will begin at 6.45pm (please note this replaces the previously advertised quiz on 24 September). Drinks may be brought in – there will also be refreshments on sale. We will charge £1 corkage for any bottle bought into the quiz. Tickets £18

Thursday 10 October: A day trip to Aylesford Priory in Kent to include lunch, Mass and a guided tour of the Priory. The coach will leave Clergy House at the later time of 9.30am. Tickets £38

Saturday 19 October: The Halo Party – marking the canonisation of England's first saint in more than 50 years – in Westminster Cathedral Hall. The party

will take place after Ecumenical Vespers in the Cathedral which will be led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Halo Party at 5.15pm. Tickets £15



Tuesday 12 November: Nigel Woollen – Newman and the Rosary: Talk in the Clergy House Library. Talk will begin at 7pm. Doors at 6.30pm. Please come to Clergy House Reception. Tickets £10

Thursday 14 November: The Mithras Temple and the Guildhall Art Gallery with Paul Pickering. Meet at the main entrance to London's Mithraeum at 10.45am for our group booking at 11am. The visit will last approximately one hour. We then have free time for a sandwich lunch before meeting at the Guildhall at 1.45pm for our art tour to start at 2pm. We will also be visiting the amphitheatre in the Guildhall. Tickets £25

Sunday 1 December: The Westminster Cathedral Christmas Fair supported by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. Doors open at 9.30am and the Fair closes at 2.30pm. The raffle will be drawn at 2.00pm. Tickets £1 (children are free of charge)



END POINT



Social media tends to be dominated by kittens, politics and celebrities, but just occasionally a gem slips through. A poem by RS Thomas – the Welsh poet and Anglican priest – caught my eye. He is less well known than the likes of Dylan Thomas, but is noted for his love of Wales and unique descriptions of faith. He is a particular favourite of Archbishop George Stack.

The poem, should you wish to look it up, is called 'The Chapel'; I will not recount it in full, but it describes an uninspiring building 'becalmed in a last-century greyness' that, as the traffic goes by, 'settles a little deeper into the grass'. The chapel's appearance belies its past: 'But here once on an evening like this, in the darkness that was about his hearers, a preacher caught fire... so that they saw the splendour of the barren mountains about them and sang their amens fiercely, narrow but saved in a way that men are not now.'

I was touched by the sense of loss; that a building of faith should be redundant and becalmed. Our Cathedral is not fading, and that, in no small part, is thanks to you, the Friends, but we can do more. We have included a bequest page in the newsletter; please do consider leaving the Friends a legacy. These donations have enabled us to complete some of the major projects for the Cathedral. I also encourage you to introduce a new friend. We need to build up our membership and help to secure the Cathedral's future.

The Friends that visited the Petre Chantry in the summer were all touched by the little chapel that settles deeper into the grass and I am pleased that we said prayers within its grey stone walls. We continue to pray for much-loved friends and colleagues who are coping with illness at the moment. Please keep them in your prayers.

And, it would not be the autumn newsletter if I didn't remind you to bring donations for the Christmas Fair. Thank you for your support. *Christina White*

– March 2020

Monday 9 December: The Big Give Donors' Supper with the chaplains of Westminster Cathedral. Donors who give £1000 or more to our Big Give Appeal will be invited to supper with the chaplains. Please contact the office on 0207 798 9059 for details of how to donate.

2020

Monday 24 February 2020: Oxford Professor Diane Purkiss on Civil War, Politics and Religion. Westminster Cathedral Hall. Doors open at 6.30pm; talk at 7.00pm. Tickets £10

Friday 6 March: A Walk Through Historic Clerkenwell with Anthony Weaver; including Mass at St Etheldreda's, a pub lunch and visits to the museums of the Charterhouse and the Hospital of St John. This will be a full-day walking tour. Tickets £30

St Patrick's Eve/St Patrick's Day – watch the website for updates. More details in the Spring newsletter.

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.

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