

The friends OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

The Newsletter
Autumn/Winter 2020



Welcome back





CANON CHRISTOPHER
HOWARD JOSEPH TUCKWELL

1945 - 2020

ADMINISTRATOR OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS
OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

2008 - 2020

Dear Friends of Westminster Cathedral

As I have written elsewhere, I spent some time in the north east of England during the month of August. It was good to be up there, away from the sweltering heat of the south east. The week spent in the north east reminded me of the rich Catholic heritage which that region enjoys. England truly once was an Island of Saints. The beautifully restored A.W. Pugin Cathedral of St Mary in Newcastle was a joy to see and it was a privilege to attend Mass there on the Sunday – with all the necessary Covid 19 restrictions in place. Durham Cathedral, home to the shrines of Saints Cuthbert and Bede (sadly St Cuthbert was hidden way behind the barriers, and St Bede was surrounded by hand sanitizer) was, nonetheless, open for visits and spoke eloquently of the strength and confidence of the medieval Church. Hexham Abbey, which was founded by St Wilfrid in the 670s AD, was a wonderful surprise. The chancel and sanctuary were in beautiful condition, including a stunning set of four 15th century paintings entitled 'The Dance of Death'. They depict Death as a gruesome skeleton wielding a sickle. He dances, in turn, before a cardinal, a king, an emperor and a pope. None of these powerful figures can resist his influence.



This depiction of the inevitability of death leads me to reflect on the recent loss of the much loved former Chairman of the Friends. Canon Christopher faithfully served the Cathedral family for over 14 years. The development and work of the Friends was a cause that was dear to his heart. Part of our respect for his memory is to ensure that the work goes from strength to strength. We are resolved to build up the life and influence of the Friends even in these difficult days. It almost goes without saying that when we do this effectively then Westminster Cathedral benefits, as does the Kingdom of God. May the Lord prosper and bless our work, and may Canon Christopher rest in peace.

The memorial fund for the late Canon has already received some significant donations, and grateful thanks are due to all the donors. As you will read elsewhere, this fund will provide a fitting tribute to the Canon. All donations will be prudently and appropriately assigned. If you have any suggestions do share them with us over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing some of you at the Annual General Meeting at the end of September.

With my prayers, and sincere thanks for your support,

Father Daniel Humphreys

Acting Administrator of Westminster Cathedral and Chairman of the Friends

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: Fr Daniel Humphreys, Acting Administrator of Westminster Cathedral and Chairman of the Friends; Andrew Sanders, Vice-Chairman; Andrew Hollingsworth, Treasurer; Linda McHugh, Chair of the Friends' Anniversary Appeal. Assisted by Zoe Goodway, Patrick Gormley, Geraldine Kay and Euphrasie Mundeke-Kilolo. The Friends' Council is aided by Barry Lock, Chairman of the Mosaics Appeal Group, and Christina White, Director

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Letter from the Vice-Chairman by Andrew Sanders

AT THE end of July, I was lucky enough to be invited to visit an exhibition in the Netherlands. On the way to the Dutch capital we took a short digression to the Cathedral in Ghent in order to look at the recently restored 15th-century altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers. The city of Ghent was gloomy: the weather was over-cast, it was pouring with rain and everyone was wearing a face mask. But a view of the great altarpiece lifted all the gloom. The central panel shows an open field with mountains and a towered city in the distance. Groups of pilgrims are approaching an altar on which stands the Lamb of God. The blood of the Lamb is streaming into a chalice, but the Lamb himself holds us in a steady, piercing stare. Here is the mystery of the Mass embodied: an eternal sacrifice which draws to it all human beings and which opens up Paradise to every one of us.

The open fields of Paradise represented in the Ghent altarpiece might well delight those who have become wary of the enclosed spaces presented by most great churches such as Westminster Cathedral. For too long these spaces have been closed to worshippers and now that they are open again the number of worshippers is restricted for reasons of safety. Just as Masses in the Cathedral were opened to the public once again, we found ourselves bereft of the Cathedral's Administrator, Canon Christopher Tuckwell who was also our Chairman. It seems as if much of what we were used to has changed utterly. Canon Tuckwell, I am sure, would be the first to insist that the life of the Cathedral will go on, centred as it is on the Sacraments. The Ghent altarpiece shows not just the worship of the Lamb but a larger world full of joy, of prayer, of music; a great pilgrimage of life reaching its divine climax. Fr Tuckwell was so happy when he was leading groups on what he called 'holidays with prayer'. He may not be physically present as an earthly pilgrim, but he emphatically remains an inspiration to the good work of the Friends.

Friend-get-Friend by Geraldine Kay

HOW DO visitors experience Westminster Cathedral? We might be attracted by the liturgy of the Mass and services, the music, the artistic decoration, or everything combined. In the Cathedral's glorious immensity, our experience could be represented by something as small as a single, glittering tessera. What will we do with this treasure?

As Friends, we are invited to support the riches of the Cathedral. While the Friends often fundraise for specific projects, membership income and the subscriptions raised provide a vital source of support; a loyal, annual form of revenue, that can most importantly be used flexibly as core income by the Cathedral. Membership of the Friends needs to be promoted with our family and

friends, neighbours, work colleagues, and members of the Church, individually and en masse.

In past years, membership grew exponentially, reaching around 2,000 worldwide. In recent years, seeing a natural decline, we are minded to adopt a more proactive approach to ensure that the Friends keep supporting the Cathedral. Help us to share the great treasure that is the Cathedral by promoting membership. If each of us accepts this challenge, we will boost our numbers once more and secure the future of the Cathedral. For details on how to join visit www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/friends_join.php. Email: friends@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 020 7798 9059. Membership forms may also be found in the Cathedral.



This is the time to be slow

This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.

John O'Donohue, Irish poet and philosopher

Towards a New Normal

THE DEADLINE for the summer edition of *Oremus* is in early June, and thus it was that I wrote an article about the Friends in lockdown, talking about the growing membership of the Facebook page and the impromptu digital coffee mornings and afternoon tea which had become something of a ritual day-by-day. I re-read that copy this morning. It seems like a lifetime ago. Since the piece was written, the Cathedral has re-opened; first for private prayer, and latterly for the celebration of Mass, albeit with restricted capacity.

I said in June that I thought the new normal 'will not be the old' and so it has come to pass. At the time of writing we are preparing for a socially distanced AGM: no reception, masks must be worn, numbers limited, all attendees must pre-register with contact details. The usual notice for the AGM comes with the proviso 'please do not attend if you show any symptoms of Covid-19'. The new normal, is not normal at all.

So, how have the Friends fared? We had not previously enjoyed a major online presence as a Society. Bar our fundraising campaign Big Give, much of the work of the Friends is in person with tours, trips and talks. As the pandemic took hold in London, the staff of the Cathedral complex opted to work at home and so, in March, I set up the computer in my kitchen and considered the options.

The Friends first set up a Facebook page more than five years ago. To all intents and purposes, it was a message board advertising forthcoming events or appealing for volunteers. I don't think we

had really properly considered Facebook as a platform for membership, but this is what, ultimately, it has become. That first morning, our membership of the Facebook page numbered 485 with little interaction from members. It felt stale, if that can apply to a digital forum, but with a nominal presence on the Cathedral website it was our only point of immediate contact with Friends.

We offered new members of the Facebook page the chance to join the Friends proper for just £10 (the offer was withdrawn once the Cathedral was open). I posted news from the Cathedral and the Vatican and, one particular morning, decided to post a picture of a cup of coffee. The response was immediate: Friends logged on and posted pictures of their coffee, we reminisced about cake – at this stage flour was impossible to get – and the coffee gathering grew apace. Afternoon tea became a feature and my cat Finn enjoyed new-found celebrity as he sat inquisitively by the computer or pawed his way into photographs of tea and biscuits. His hunting skills sharpened as lockdown progressed and I relayed the body count. Finn became the unofficial mascot of the Friends – nominated by Caroline and Kevin - and on the whole people liked the whimsy of it all. One woman did resign. Her parting comment: 'I don't want to see pictures of cats.'

Pictures of the Cathedral were, at this stage, in short supply. The church was closed. We imagined the chaplains rattling round the empty building. When live streaming finally began the emptiness of it all became apparent. Fr John Scott took an iconic photograph of the Cardinal alone



in his Cathedral which we chose as the front cover of the Friends' membership leaflet. Richard Hawker started a series of 'Tales from the Sacristy', posting pictures of vestments and church plate with suitably ecclesiastical commentary. Paul Pickering resurrected his role as tour guide for the Friends and ran a quirky series of art posts.

I think my favourite item from those early days was a reading by Professor Diane Purkiss who had given a talk to the Friends in February, one of the last events before lockdown. Her daughter recorded her at home in her Oxfordshire garden reciting a poem about the destruction of the Walsingham Shrine. The background of blowsy roses and birdsong made it especially poignant.

Fr Daniel proved himself an adept quizmaster with a dry wit and we ran two online quizzes with the spoils going to Joseph Bonner and Linda McHugh. This was our first foray into online events, and it gave us confidence that more could be done. On a practical level the Council and committees met regularly via Zoom and our Treasurer set up Virgin Money Giving for online donations.

Mass at home was a new experience. I will confess to joining in and then rushing, mid-prayer, to a pan on the hob on the point of boiling over. As the weeks progressed the experience became more prayerful with a greater focus on the readings. Live streaming from the Cathedral brought back a sense of proper community and there were post-Mass discussions on the Facebook page on the quality of the transmission, the singing, the altar frontals. The Cathedral's finances have been severely damaged by lockdown and we reminded people to donate online as they would

donate in person; card payment rather than cash on the collection plate.

The international appeal of the Cathedral soon became apparent. Mike from Dusseldorf got in touch; he always visited Westminster Cathedral on trips to London. I asked him to post about his experience of lockdown. He said that the young boasted about going to Corona parties but the majority in Germany stuck by the rules. Marco posted from Rome. At that stage, we were watching the scenes from Italy with growing concern. Marco enjoyed our focus on morning coffee, though a mug of instant in a London kitchen didn't have quite the same appeal as an espresso in a café in Roma. Many Friends watched the live transmission of Pope Francis, standing in the rain in St Peter's Square, offering his blessing to the world.

And in the midst of all this – the worry, the loneliness, the anxiety – we had news of Canon Christopher's untimely death. Lockdown had separated people in more than just a physical sense and we felt it was important to communicate the sad news and to give Friends a memento of someone who meant so much to them. The response to the 'In Memoriam' booklet has been very moving.

So, where are we now? The Facebook page numbers nearly 850 and the community grows daily. We are plugging away at proper membership and 45 people have joined the Friends – the majority via the online community. Uncertainty continues and bar some walking tours we have focused events up to Christmas on online talks and discussions. We are not alone. Throughout lockdown I kept in touch with other Cathedral Friends' Societies and they, like us, are trying to find a way back to a new normal. CW



‘Britain & Ireland For The Pope!’

Fr Nicholas Schofield on the story of the Papal Zouaves

ONE HUNDRED and fifty years ago this September, Rome was captured by the Italians. This may seem strange, since we all know Rome as the capital of Italy, but up until 1870 the ‘Eternal City’ was the heart of the Papal States and the pope was both Head of the Church and a King who passed laws, collected taxes and maintained an army and navy.

The 19th century was dominated by the ‘Italian Question’. Thanks to the Risorgimento, led by the likes of Cavour, Garibaldi and Mazzini, efforts were made to unify Italy and rid the peninsular of foreign influence. However, the existence of the Papal States formed a barrier to these plans. In existence for more than a millennium, they were seen as a necessary guarantee of the pope’s authority and independence, and any attempted invasion or revolution was regarded as a matter involving the Catholic world.

In Great Britain there was much enthusiasm for the Risorgimento. Many hoped that a new Italy would be shaped along British democratic lines and would also see the decline of the Catholic Church. Vast crowds greeted Garibaldi when he visited London in 1864; he even had the eponymous biscuit named after him! One writer claimed that Italian Unity was the greatest moral crusade in England since the movement for the abolition of slavery.

Between 1860 and 1870 the pope successively lost his temporal power. Volunteers flocked to Rome to help the

pope defend his sovereign rights, including many from Britain and Ireland. In 1860 the Irish formed their own battalion, named after St Patrick, and from 1861 recruits joined an elite corps known as the Pontifical Zouaves – a fashionable type of soldier at the time, inspired by the tribesmen of the mountains of Algeria. Included among their ranks were English aristocrats, former members of the British Army, a Member of Parliament and even an engineer who later helped procure marble for the new Westminster Cathedral.

The Zouaves spent much of their time on garrison duty or practising their drill but there were several notable actions, including the battle of Mentana (1867) and the siege of Rome (1870). For Catholics at the time, there was much enthusiasm for the cause and the few who lost their lives in action were regarded as martyrs. Cardinal Manning himself was one of the chief proponents of the pope maintaining his temporal power.

Times are very different today; fighting for the pope may seem an extreme reaction and it is often argued that the papacy was subsequently strengthened despite losing its kingdom. I am looking forward to presenting this talk to the Friends and I hope I will shed light on this fascinating story.

Fr Nicholas Schofield’s talk will take place online on Wednesday 14 October at 7pm. Please see the events schedule for booking details.



'Included among their ranks were English aristocrats... and even an engineer who later helped procure marble for the new Westminster Cathedral.'

From Whitehall Palace to Wigan Pier

THE NEED to put events online has changed the format of our planned autumn season. I am pleased to report that many of our speakers are coming back, albeit via Zoom, and will be giving the talks that should have been scheduled for spring and summer 2020. Professor Caroline Barron's talk, originally scheduled for 16 September, has been put back to October to allow more time for booking.

The great outdoors became more important than ever in lockdown and Gerard Manley Hopkins was such a gentle observer of nature that I feel it appropriate for him to start the season off with Durham Professor Martin Dubois' talk.

We were very grateful to Mr Richard Hawker, the Cathedral's Chief Sacristan, for his quirky and informative posts from the Sacristy during lockdown and I am looking forward to his Sacristy tour with our vice-chairman Professor Andrew Sanders. The Sacristy, by virtue of size is a limited space for real-life tours, so the tour will be much more accessible online and may be seen by people who love the Cathedral across the world.

Paul Pickering has robustly offered a walking tour of historic Whitehall which will be socially distant and I hope we will be able to have tea. Joanna Bogle has also offered a walking tour focused on the Marian shrines of London. As we move towards 2021, we are bringing back talks in person with our great friend and supporter Alison Weir and Joanna with a more in-depth look at Marian devotion in England.

We revisit Whitehall at the start of 2021 with a fascinating online talk by Dr Rory O'Donnell focusing on the Catholic

churches of England post-Reformation. He writes: 'Christmas 1685 saw the opening of King James II's Catholic Chapel Royal at Whitehall, but Christmas 1688 saw its closure after the Dutch invasion, the so-called 'Glorious Revolution'. We will look for the surviving evidence in prints, drawings and museum artefacts. Thereafter, the marginalised Catholics worshipped not at Court but in the courts and alleys of the towns and cities, embracing a Non-conformist-type organisation for survival. We will look at the chapels and congregations of Wigan, Holborn, Winchester and Moorfields. Of course, Catholic landed estate and private chapel worship continued, and we will look at examples such as Coughton, Thorndon, Wardour, Milton and Costessey. A range of architectural styles will be discussed - from classical to Gothic Revival. The role of the clergy, the seminaries and the religious orders, will be mentioned, but this is largely a lay story.'

Cambridge professor Dr John Harvey will finally be giving his talk on Peter Paul Rubens and his brilliant book *Pax*. John has looked again at the novel in the light of the pandemic – as he points out: 'Rubens' wife Isabella had just died of the plague (in 1626), which in those years raged through Europe just as Covid does right now.' He joins us in November.

The Friends are very grateful to Peter Stevens, Asst. Master of Music, who will be offering an exclusive online concert for the Friends of organ music for Advent and Christmas on 4 December. This will be followed by a Zoom drinks reception. Please do try and join us and share a moment of Christmas cheer. CW

Rubens, the Peacemaker

Cambridge author John Harvey on the inspiration behind his new novel 'Pax'



I HAVE always loved pictures and in PAX I hope I have found a great subject for an art-loving novel: it is the story of the visit to London which the great Catholic painter Peter Paul Rubens made in 1629

– seen through the eyes of a contemporary artist, for whom the fate of Rubens has an intimate value.

Rubens came as the envoy of the Court of Spain, with the purpose – his Own initiative – of negotiating a Peace between Spain and England. This was in the midst of the Thirty Years War, which devastated Europe between 1618 and 1648 – adding to the



death-toll of the Plague, which then (as in 2020 also) raged through Europe. Rubens knew both trials, because his wife Isabella had died of the plague in 1626, while the horrors

of war were familiar from childhood (he grew up in Cologne during the murderously savage 'Cologne War'). An artist who loved the human body so warmly would hate mutilation and death. More, Rubens sought

a Peace between religious hostilities, both Catholic and Protestant. He called his Anglo-Spanish Peace 'the connecting knot in the chain of all the confederations of Europe' – words which may ring sadly for some as Brexit becomes immediate.

It is a remarkable story. What artist now could make peace between nations – and make Peace at the same time between warring faiths? To do so Rubens must outwit both Cardinal Richelieu in France, and the Calvinists in England. I show him haggling with a suspicious King Charles I. In London he met high life and low: he left behind an oil-study of a London prostitute as well as portraits of grandes and of a homely family. But also I imagine him wrestling, in London, with a painful revelation, which parallels the personal crisis of my contemporary artist. It concerns the past intimacy of his wife Isabella Brant with his most brilliant pupil, who had lived in their house, Anthony Van Dyck: legends flourished afterwards about that romance, and I too have investigated. And in the present time Stephen Bloodsmith is falling for his stunning Afro-British model model, Mae, even as a relationship his own wife has had appears to be unravelling.

In an extraordinary vehicle Rubens flies one night with his own dark lady to the ends of space and time: he passes Hell and sees Creation, the Heavenly City and Eternity. And an agony of gout in his painting hand reminds him of the pain in the Crucifixions he has painted, and of the forgiveness he needs to make Peace in his own life.



© Maren Mazur

The Canon Christopher Tuckwell Memorial Appeal

Linda McHugh on the ‘fitting legacy’ for a beloved priest

IT IS hard to believe that it is already more than two months since Canon Christopher died and it is with some sadness that we remember that he would have celebrated his 75th birthday this month and that he should have embarked on his well-earned retirement.

We on the Council of The Friends have been gratified by the kind comments about the In Memoriam booklet created, so skilfully and in such a short time, by Christina White and we have been grateful for the money received so far by the Canon Tuckwell Memorial Appeal. To date we have

received over 50 donations and we are hoping to get many more before we close the appeal. Subject to their agreement, the donors' names will be published in future editions of this Newsletter and they will be invited to a special event next year.

So how will the money be used? We are considering commissioning a portrait of Canon Christopher to hang in Clergy House as a lasting memorial to him. Other suggestions received to date have included a memorial plaque or a piece of statuary and we will be happy to hear from you with any other ideas that you may have.

However, we are all very clear about two things; we must be mindful of the Cathedral's very difficult financial situation – as he always was – and we must spend the money on an aspect of the Cathedral that was close to his heart. For Canon Christopher, prayer always came first but, after that, it was not the mosaics or the music that he cared about most, it was the people: the Cathedral family.

Our plan is to spend the bulk of the money on Cathedral communications. As you will note from the article on The Big Give in this newsletter, helping the Cathedral communicate better will be a major focus for the The Friends over the coming months. The Covid-19 lockdown has highlighted the limitations of the present system. The Cathedral website is outdated with no interactive capability. The livestreaming requires substantial investment. The Cathedral does not have a database with parishioners' contact details and is constrained from communicating with the people who most need help - this was evident at the height of the pandemic.

Our objective is to help create a new, vibrant communications platform, enabling the Cathedral to communicate fully with members of its Cathedral family. The platform will facilitate proactive engagement, enabling us to help the lonely/the isolated and making it much easier for people to seek help from parish charities. We envisage online community events and meetings for groups such as the Filipino Club or Grandparents Association.

The new platform will enable people to participate in Cathedral services anywhere in the world. Some may live close by but are unable to get to Mass because of age or infirmity. For those without equipment to follow the livestream, we will provide this, supplying it free for those in financial hardship.

I would encourage everyone who has not done so already to make a donation to the Memorial appeal. Donations may be made by cheque payable to The Friends of Westminster Cathedral or you may also make a donation via the Friends Virgin Money Giving account. Please log on to Virgin Money Giving at uk.virginmoneygiving.com and type in Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral as the chosen charity, then click on the red donate button. If you would prefer to pay by debit or credit card or bank transfer, please contact the office for details on 0207 798 9059 and we can arrange payment.



We are very enthusiastic about the communications project and are confident that Canon Christopher would have given it his whole-hearted support. We hope that you too will see the benefits that it will bring to the Cathedral and that you will see it as a fitting legacy for a beloved priest and leader.

Mosaic News by Barry DS Lock



THE DEATH of Canon Christopher was a sad blow to us all and not least, to the progression of mosaic work in the Cathedral. As you are aware, Fr Christopher was keen to complete St Patrick's Chapel and then to move on to the Baptistry.

The lockdown has inevitably delayed the development and approval of designs for mosaic work in the Cathedral. I regret to report that John Maddison's design for St Patrick's Chapel, which was put to the Historic Churches Committee, has been withdrawn for the present; it is not clear when this will be resurrected. The reasons for this are complex, but complex mosaic design takes time. In the interim, we continue to gather monies into the seed corn fund which I am pleased to report totals over £35,000.

On a positive note, John Maddison was asked to produce a design for a mosaic of St Augustine. Finishing touches are being made to the design and it has also been reviewed by an Augustinian prelate, Bishop Emeritus Michael Campbell OSA. The news is heartening; the design has been very well received and the mosaic will be financed in full by a good Friend of Westminster Cathedral.

With the closure of the Cathedral and its gradual reopening we have had little help from the St Patrick's Chapel collection box. Despite the delays, please do continue to support the fund. Anyone interested in developing Cathedral mosaics should send a cheque donation payable to The Friends of Westminster Cathedral to the Friends' Office. You may specify that it is for St Patrick or for the wider general fund, in which instance your donation will be allocated to the next project in line. We also now have a facility for online giving through the Virgin Money Giving site or we can accept a bank transfer. In the meantime, dear Friends keep safe, and thank you for your on-going support.

The Catholic Union by Nigel Parker



YOUR MAILING includes a membership form for the Catholic Union of Great Britain. The Friends agreed to help us to become better known by distributing this leaflet and we have returned the favour, spreading the word about the Friends amongst our members.

The Catholic Union, founded in 1870 by the Duke of Norfolk and other Catholic peers, was approved by the Hierarchy and Pope Pius IX. The purpose of the Union is to be the voice of the laity in promoting Catholic interests in politics and public life, developing the values of Catholic spiritual, moral and social teaching. It is a non-party political organisation which speaks out on a range of issues that affect Catholics bringing together the expertise of the laity with Catholic members of both Houses of Parliament. It has consultative status to the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. The current President is the Rt. Hon. Edward Leigh MP.

Recently we have lobbied for the reopening of churches, closed because of the Covid-19 regulations. We are also active on Life issues, religious freedom and social policy questions. The Union organises an annual summer event in a place of Catholic historical interest and a series of well attended lectures in London, including the prestigious Craigmyle Lecture, followed by a reception.

2020 is the 150th anniversary of the Catholic Union. We marked the occasion in February – just before lockdown – with a Mass at Farm Street celebrated by Cardinal Nichols followed by a reception. We warmly invite all Friends of Westminster Cathedral to join us.



'For over a hundred years, countless Christians and visitors of every faith and none have crossed the threshold of this holy place, sensing the presence of God and filling it with prayer and contemplation.'

Canon Christopher Tuckwell

The Big Give Appeal 2020

Building Community through Communication



THE LAST few months have shown us the degree to which the Cathedral and Friends community is dependent on our physical coming together. Many Church communities were well prepared for lockdown with easily accessible lists of emails and telephone numbers to contact parishioners. But there is no comprehensive approach to this at the Cathedral. Lists do exist for specific purposes but to contact everyone who is actively involved in the life of the Cathedral would mean working through different lists and some people would be contacted several times. The current system would not necessarily pick up on regular Mass attendees who are not involved in a specific ministry.

The Friends have moved to a new database but in many cases the only record we have is the Royal Mail address. With the sad news of Canon Christopher's death in the middle of lockdown it would have been good to contact as many Friends as we could by email or telephone. The issue for us is simply one of gathering further information and we invite you to email in with your contact details. If you do not have email, please use the AGM slip for this purpose and we can ensure that your details are up to date.

For the rest of the Cathedral the issue is much more complex. A comprehensive database will need to be built from scratch and this will draw on the specific information already held but will also involve building on that information

Live Streaming of Mass and Other Services

We hope that many of you were able to follow Mass online during the period when churches were closed. Westminster Cathedral came rather late to the installation of live streaming only once it was known that lockdown was being imposed. We are mindful that other churches organised live streaming long ago in order to serve house-bound parishioners.

Given the larger distances from the obvious locations for cameras and the sanctuary the quality of the pictures from the Cathedral has been limited and there are lots of examples of churches with much higher quality live streaming.

It is obviously desirable to continue to make it possible to follow Mass from the Cathedral over the internet whether to serve the community if there is another spike in the pandemic, to serve those who are unwell or possibly those who are not confident in travelling in very bad weather. If this is to continue then the quality should be improved requiring investment.

Facebook and Other Social Media

Many of you have enjoyed keeping in touch through Facebook during the lockdown and we are grateful to Fr Daniel for the two Cathedral quizzes which he chaired in April and May through Facebook. We recognise that there is much greater scope for us to keep in touch with each other and to take part in events together without having to travel to the Cathedral. The odd coffee morning from the comfort of our own garden/kitchen/sitting room can also be organised. We all hope that the pre-COVID world will be restored and we can meet up in person, but it would be very good to be able to keep in touch and build friendship and community online if for any reason we prefer not to venture out.

Website

Obviously, a ready source of communication is the information on Westminster Cathedral's website covering the Cathedral and the Friends. When first developed the website was very good. It now seems slightly old-fashioned in comparison to other websites and Fr Daniel recognises that a more modern website is needed. The Friends also need a much stronger presence.

Communications Manager

To pull all these developments together we will need a Cathedral Communications manager; at least in the short term and there will be ongoing costs of keeping the system updated.

The Friends Funding Communications

For all these reasons, the Council of the Friends would like to fund better communications in order to build community through an appeal this Christmas. As with earlier Christmas Appeals, we will carry out the main part of the appeal through the online Christmas Big Give. This is a matched online donation scheme which will run from noon on Tuesday 1 December to noon on Tuesday 8 December. We have already secured our pledges for match-funding and if you log in and donate in this period your donation will be doubled. For example, if £100 is donated it is matched by a further £100. If you are a taxpayer, please tick the Gift Aid box and we will receive a further £25 in Gift Aid: a £100 donation adds £225 to the funds raised for the Appeal.

Details of how to donate will be on the website, in the Cathedral newsletter in the coming weeks or please call the office: 020 7798 9059. We are hoping to have a chaplains' supper for major donors of £1000 or more on 9 December but this will be subject to review closer to time. Please show your support and help us to help Westminster Cathedral.

For the Diary: Calendar September 2020 – March

Monday 21 September: [Online talk via Zoom by Professor Martin Dubois of Durham University](#) on the poet and priest – Fr Gerard Manley Hopkins 7pm. £5

Friday 25 September: [Paul Pickering leads a tour of historic Whitehall](#). Please note that this is a walking tour and is sadly not suitable for anyone who is infirm. Numbers are strictly limited according to Covid protocols. Group to meet at 1.45pm at the Paul Getty entrance to the National Gallery for the tour to start at 2pm. If the weather is inclement Paul proposes an art tour instead. £25

Wednesday 30 September: [Friends' AGM](#). Cathedral Hall 6.30pm. There will be social distancing in place. Sadly, this year there will not be a reception after the AGM. All attendees must wear a mask and must pre-register to attend.

Tuesday 6 October: [Online Cathedral Quiz via Zoom](#) with Fr Daniel Humphreys as Quizmaster 7pm. £10

Wednesday 14 October: [Online talk via Zoom](#) by Fr Nicholas Schofield, Westminster Diocesan Archivist, on the British men who fought for the Papal States in Italy 7pm. £5

Thursday 22 October: [Online talk via Zoom](#) by Professor Caroline Barron of King's College, London on St Thomas Becket 7pm. £5

Monday 26 October: [Joanna Bogle, a walking tour focused on London's Marian Shrines](#). Meet at St Dominic's church, Haverstock Hill at 1.45pm for the tour to start at 2pm. £10

Wednesday 4 November: [Online talk via Zoom](#) by Professor John Harvey on Rubens and his novel PAX. The talk will be live at 7pm. £5

Thursday 12 November: [Westminster Cathedral. In Remembrance](#). 5.30pm Mass for Deceased Friends of Westminster Cathedral.

Thursday 19 November: [An online private tour of Westminster Cathedral's historic sacristy focusing on the Cathedral's treasures](#) with Head Sacristan Richard Hawker in conversation with Professor Andrew Sanders. The video of the tour will be online at 7pm. £10

Tuesday 1 December 12 pm – Tuesday 8 December 12pm 2020: [The Big Give Online Appeal when donations to the Friends will be doubled](#). Donors who give £1000 or more will be invited to a chaplains' supper. We are hoping that this will take place on Wednesday 9 December but the event may be held over until 2021 Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

This year we are raising funds for Better Communications for Westminster Cathedral. All donations will be in memory of Canon Christopher Tuckwell RIP.

Friday 4 December: [Organ Music for Advent and Christmas](#) with Asst. Master of Music Peter Stevens. Online concert. 7pm. There will be a post-concert reception via Zoom. £10

2021

2021 – Looking Ahead

Thursday 21 January: **Dr Rory O'Donnell**
- from **Whitehall Palace to Wigan Pier**:
Catholic churches 1685-1829. Online talk
via Zoom live at 7pm. £5

Tuesday 9 February: **Joanna Bogle** talk on
The Marian Shrines of England. Cathedral
Hall 7pm. £10

Wednesday 3 March: **Alison Weir** talk on
Katheryn Howard: The Tainted Queen.
Cathedral Hall 7pm. £10



How To Book

Booking for 'in person' events and walking tours may be made in the usual manner. Please contact the Friends' office and on payment you will be sent tickets.

For the online events you may pay as follows:

- 1) Pay via our Virgin Money Giving site at least one day before the event.
- 2) Pay via our Virgin Money Giving site closer than one day before the event but forward your email receipt to christinawhite@rcdow.org.uk as proof of payment.
- 3) Send a cheque to the office at least one week before the event.
- 4) Phone the office directly on 0207 798 9059 and pay by card at least two days before the event.

You must have access to a computer/ tablet/ smart phone and an email address. This is because we will email you the Zoom link so that you may access the event online (on receipt of payment).

If you have any queries at all about the booking process please contact the office. Payment for an event will admit one person/ one household. Please be generous if more than one person will be attending with you.

We are sorry but you will not be able to access the online events without internet access and an email address.



Endpoint

AS I prepared the Friends' Memorial Booklet it was a bittersweet task to look through the many photographs of Canon Christopher. I was keen to convey something of the essence of him and I hope in some small way that was achieved. Marcin Mazur's photograph was a particular highlight – biblical in its scope and quality. I am grateful to all the contributors who, in words or images and with a lightness of touch, managed each in turn to capture a different aspect of Fr Christopher's personality.

It is an interesting exercise editing such a large quantity of photographs. There are obvious rejections such as blurred or out of focus images, red eye, repetition. But I was struck, in the main, by the photographs not of Fr Christopher per se but of the images where he is almost out of shot and the photographer has focused on the people with whom he is interacting. They are smiling and laughing, their delight evident to see.

Fr Christopher, you were right; Marcin did not often set out to take photographs of you as an individual. His role was as a

recorder of the event, the Cardinal, the Cathedral. Yet, even at a distance, as an observer rather than participant, there you are, again and again, communicating the faith. Children are a good judge of character; they have that innate ability to assess on sight and the pictures of Fr Christopher with children were especially moving: a small boy intent on cake; an altar server; a toddler on a mother's lap transfixed by a candle. You were a natural communicator with an ability to mix easily with the people of our Church – the princes, prelates and paupers, indeed.

The Friends' decision to focus on communications for this year's Big Give campaign is in no small measure a tribute to Fr Christopher. We are picking up where he left off, improving the vision and the message of Westminster Cathedral. Donations to both our Big Give Christmas Appeal and the Memorial Fund which has also been launched will all be made in his memory.

As Friends, we knew Fr Christopher as the Administrator of Westminster Cathedral: a tough job, and a demanding vocation. But there were occasional hints of what life in mufti might have been. He loved the near tame blackbirds that used to nest in the ivy of the front wall at Clergy House and he took a small pottery urn from the Friends' office for birdseed. He deserved retirement; pastor of a remote country parish maybe, with a dog at his heels and a garden for contemplation.

We will not forget him, and in tribute to him the Friends must continue to flourish. CW





Support Westminster Cathedral

Join The Friends Today

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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Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone (by giving this number I consent to being contacted by telephone) _____

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Please pay to the account of: The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral at Barclays Bank PLC,
155 Brompton Road, London SW3 1XD

Account no: 20851841 Sort Code: 20 06 13

The sum of: £ _____ on the _____ day of 2020

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In order to Gift Aid your donation(s) you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my membership fee donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to: The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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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.org.uk/friends.php

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