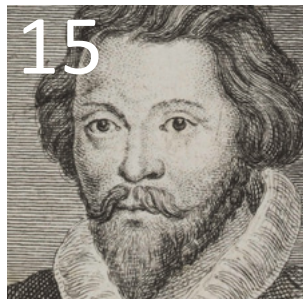




Fruits of Fundraising

A new mosaic installed
in St Paul's Chapel

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The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral
Registered Charity Number 272899

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Fr Sławomir Witoń

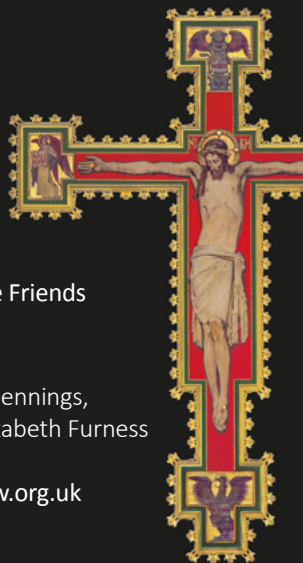
Administrator of Westminster Cathedral and Chairman of The Friends

Andrew Hollingsworth Vice-Chairman

Elizabeth Gibson Treasurer

Trustees (in addition to the above): Simon Johnson, Benedict Jennings,
Richard Collyer-Hamlin, Sandra McNally, Monica Mbanefo, Elizabeth Furness
Cliona Howell **Chair of the Friends' Mosaics Committee**
Joe Allen **Coordinator of The Friends** josephdavidallen@rcdow.org.uk

Cover Photo © Joe Allen Magazine Design: GADS



Editorial from Fr Witon

Dear Friends

The Easter celebrations may be over, but the light of Easter continues to shine! It is really important for us to keep the Light of Easter shining, the light which revealed the victory of Jesus Christ over death, in our hearts and in our lives. We are the children of light and we are an Easter people!

If I could describe the atmosphere of the Cathedral at the moment it would be *'light and bright'*. It is the combination of the splendour of Christ's Easter light and the new cathedral lighting, which makes visiting the Cathedral such an enjoyable experience. I would like to thank you all for your kind and generous contributions to the *Big Give Appeal* last December which raised £70,000 towards the cost of the new lighting. We could never have pursued this project without your generous support. I am thanking God every day for you helping us to arrive at this point in the project. At the same time, I have full confidence that God will assist us in finding ways to pay off the remainder of the cost. The new lighting not only allows us to enhance the architectural beauty of the cathedral, improve the experience of liturgy and personal prayer, but also reduce the running costs of the cathedral and the Carbon Footprint we leave on the planet.

I cannot believe that it is nearly three years since the death of our dear Canon Christopher Tuckwell. I am really happy that the Friends' Council had agreed that the mosaic of St Augustine of Hippo, the last mosaic Canon Christopher commissioned for the Cathedral, should be installed in his memory. The mosaic will be blessed and the appropriate inscription unveiled on 30 June 2023 at the 5.30 p.m. Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral presided over by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols and concelebrated by the Canons of the Cathedral. I really hope you can join us for this happy occasion.

We are not *'out of the woods'* just yet. Whilst the number of visitors to the Cathedral is slowly rising to pre-pandemic levels, so too are our running costs. I am very happy, therefore, that the West Doors, which the Friends paid for some years ago, continue to keep the cold out, and our new lights are far more energy efficient. Your support through membership of The Friends and participation in fundraising campaigns and events is deeply appreciated. However, the work is not over, and will continue to present financial challenges as we go forward with our ongoing work on the Cathedral. Your continued participation and engagement as, and with, The Friends is therefore of great importance.

I send my warmest wishes to you and your families during this Easter season. You are all in my prayers and the prayers of my brother chaplains. Please, keep us and the Cathedral in yours.

With every blessing,

Fr Sławomir Witoń

Administrator of Westminster Cathedral and Chairman of The Friends



Autumn 2022 at The Friends...

Events...

The past few months have seen a period of productivity and success for the Friends, with myriad developments and much news to share. In September 2022, the AGM (Annual General Meeting) was held in Cathedral Hall, where several new trustees and officers were elected. More information on this, alongside the most recent financial reports can be found further through this newsletter.

October marked the return of our ever-popular quizzes, of which we have now had three, with another two scheduled between now and summer. The quizzes routinely attract over 50 people (peaking at 60+), and have provided enjoyable opportunities for fellowship, food, and gentle competition. Our thanks go to all who make these events possible, not least Frs Brian, John, and Mike for their 'Quizmasterly' duties; Barbara Smith and Susie Watchorn for their perfectly-pitched question setting; and The Laughing Halibut for their excellent food. Pictured here is Fr Mike, who came dressed in academic gown and an aviation-themed scarf to match his bonus round on air-travel. On this sartorial flourish, Father Quizmasters take note!

In late October, quizzing gave way to contemplation and conversation as we welcomed Miranda Shaw and Elizabeth Lasker who gave a most informative and interactive session on their 'Creators of Peace' project. A national and international initiative to bring about reconciliation, the session involved



© Joe Allen

leaders and participants speaking freely and equally about different conceptions and understandings of peace. Everyone who attended remarked what an enriching experience it was, and our thanks go to Miranda and Elizabeth for facilitating this event.

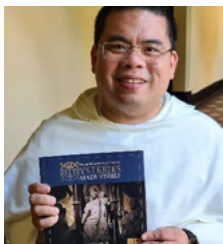
Touring and exploring has dominated the event schedule of The Friends so far in 2023. In February, an intrepid group gathered at The London Oratory for a tour of the Church and Sacristy. Our thanks go to Br Joseph Rodrigues and Mr James Cross for their insightful and fascinating guide to the beautiful altarpieces and marbles which make up the church, and



© Oremus

some of the treasures of the sacristy. Later that month we enjoyed an after-hours tour of our Cathedral sacristy, led by Head Sacristan Mr Richard Hawker. The tour was not merely an introduction the contents of the sacristy, but a window into the history of the Cathedral and of the English Church through the lens of vestments and plate.

March saw two more exciting events. The first was a talk given by Fr Lawrence Lew OP, Rector of the Rosary Shrine at Haverstock Hill, and Dominican Promotor



Fr Lawrence Lew OP

General of The Holy Rosary. He gave an accessible, engaging, and rousing talk on the history and understandings of this Christ-

centred Marian devotion. All those who attended came away with words of wisdom and guidance, for example, praying a decade of the Rosary as a better alternative to mindless scrolling through social media &c!

Lastly, we were very lucky indeed that Westminster Cathedral Architect Suzi Pendlebury took some time out of her busy schedule to give an architectural tour of the Cathedral. Almost 40 people gathered on a Friday afternoon in late March as we were guided around the interior, exterior, and many side chapels of the Cathedral. Specialist tours such as these have been well received, and we hope to run similar events in the coming months.

.....

Finally, a word of apology... Not every development and update in the life of charities is positive, and it is in this vein that Alison Weir's talk, scheduled for late November 2022, had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. We were, and are very sorry for any inconvenience caused to our members. We hope that this event will be rescheduled in due course, and will publicise this when known. Please do get in contact with the Friends office if you would like to be kept updated on this.

We hope that the events that The Friends run are stimulating, formative, and socially enjoyable. Do you have any feedback from events over the past few months? The Coordinator, Joe Allen, would be pleased to hear your comments and any questions you may have regarding the events we run.

Fruits of Fundraising...

Whilst we hope that the events which The Friends run are enjoyable and sociable occasions in their own right, it is also an intrinsic part of our mission that funds are raised for the important work of the preservation and enhancement of the Cathedral.

It is therefore a source of much joy to see some of our fundraising bear fruit and make a tangible impact across the Cathedral precincts...

At the time of the AGM in late September, the Cathedral Hall Kitchens were re-opened. With professional-standard fittings, the communities, organisations, and initiatives which use the Hall will now benefit greatly from the much-improved facilities. Our thanks go to all who contributed to this project which will make a real and welcome difference to numerous people and groups.

In addition to this, a second project came to fruition during late November. A new mosaic was installed in St Paul's Chapel – depicting St Augustine of Hippo. Dedicated to Canon Christopher Tuckwell RIP, a dear friend and beloved priest to many across the Cathedral community – this project would not have been possible without the generosity of The Friends. On the 30th June, the new mosaic will be blessed – details in the event pages – we do hope you will be able to join us. In the meantime, when you are next at the



© Oremus

Cathedral, why not go and seek out the new mosaic of St Augustine? It really is a beautiful work of art. A little tip – observing it from different angles and different lighting levels reveals glimmers and perspectives which aren't always discernible looking at it head on...

Ongoing projects...

As some projects come to fruition, others continue. Our principal project at the moment is fundraising to replace the lighting in the Cathedral Sanctuary. With spare parts no longer available, and a system which is heavily inefficient when it comes to energy consumption – renewed lighting is much-needed in many ways.

theBigGive.org.uk

Thankfully, various funding developments including our December 2022 Big Give Campaign means that we are well over two-thirds of the way to our target. A matched-giving campaign which runs across the charity sector in the first week of December – The Big Give pairs generous benefactors with donors to raise incredible amounts of money. In total, we were able to meet the target and raised £30,050 in online donations plus £30,000 of matched funding giving £60,050 before Gift Aid. With Gift Aid on the online donations and on some of the matched funding the total after charges comes to £70,167.13. Thank you to all who played a part – from the campaign donors and matched-funding donors through to those who helped publicise and spread the word.

This project continues, and we are hard at work with planning to raise the remainder of the funding needed. Do be in touch with The Friends Office if you are interested in making a donation to this important project, or perhaps even have a fundraising idea!

Around the Cathedral...

It goes without saying that the work and events which The Friends do are but a constituent part of the work which goes on elsewhere at the Cathedral. Indeed, alongside a full liturgical schedule, there has been much activity at the Cathedral over the past few months. An exhaustive list would take up several Friends' Newsletters, and so here are some highlights from the last few months.

Perhaps the biggest event to happen at the Cathedral in 2022 was the visit of the Relics of Saint Bernadette in September where scores of people attended the various liturgies, and to venerate the relics.

Through into December there were three events in quick succession. Firstly, there was a Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell for His Excellency, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti – Apostolic Nuncio to Great



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Britain. Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency to be Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches. We assure Archbishop Gugerotti of our prayers as he takes up this new post in the Eternal City, and thank him for all that he has done for the Catholics of our land.

Thereafter, the clergy, staff, stewards, and not least the Music Department rallied to deliver two Christmas Celebration Concerts on successive nights. The Choir, Organ, and Orchestra combined to perform a string of absolutely beautiful pieces, which along with the readings from celebrity and well-known voices provided the perfect preparation to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

New Year was tinged with sadness on the death of Pope Benedict XVI. Accordingly, Bishop Nicholas Hudson celebrated a Requiem Mass on the 3rd January, followed by Solemn Ecumenical Vespers on the 24th



January which celebrated both the life of Pope Benedict, and the Week for Christian Unity. Pope Benedict leaves behind a profound and comprehensive legacy, not least with regards to his scholarly work – valued by those across the Christian denominations.

March saw the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra return to the stage for a devotional performance of Bach's St John Passion, joined by acclaimed soloists Roderick Williams and James Gilchrist.

© Mazur/CBCEW.org.uk





© Mazur/CBCEW.org.uk

The Cathedral was packed, and the music was sublime – a truly fitting way to have marked Lent and the journey towards Holy Week.

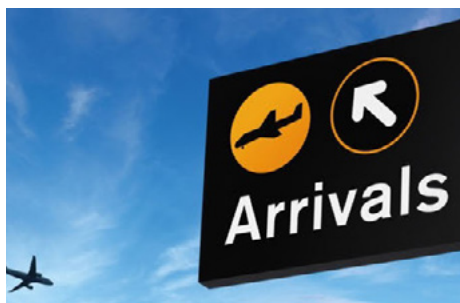
This digest finishes with an occasion which looks back as well as forward. In early March, HE Vincent Cardinal Nichols was one of twenty-seven people to present a loyal address at Buckingham Palace to HM The King ahead of the Coronation in May.

“May God bless His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen Consort, preserve them both in health of mind and body and grant them every grace and blessing now and for the years to come”.

HE Vincent Cardinal Nichols

Keep your eyes peeled over the coming weeks to see Catholic representation and attendance at these most important events in the life of our country!

Departures and Arrivals...



Since the last issue of The Friends' Newsletter there have been several departures whether this has been staff leaving post, or people standing down from official positions.

With regards to the Council of The Friends – Zoe Goodway, Patrick Gormley, Geraldine Kay, and Linda McHugh have all stepped down as Trustees – otherwise known as the legal guardians of the Charity. Additionally, Andrew Sanders has stepped down as Vice-Chairman and Andrew Hollingsworth has stepped down as Treasurer. To occupy an official position such as the trustee and official duties listed above is no mean feat. To this end, we thank all those listed for their hard work and dedication, and wish them all the best for the future. Thankfully, those aforementioned are still involved in the work of The Friends to one degree or another – for which we remain very grateful and blessed.

The end of 2021 also saw the departure of Christina White, who had been Director (nowadays known as Coordinator) of The Friends for many years. Her dedication and commitment to The Friends has in many ways made the charity what

it is today. Hence, we thank her most profoundly for her distinguished contributions and wish her all the best in her future professional endeavours.

Whilst we have seen the departure of various people from official posts, we have welcomed the arrival of familiar faces into new positions, as well as new faces into the life of The Friends.

Though Andrew Hollingsworth stepped down as Treasurer at the 2022 AGM, mere minutes later he was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of The Friends. Andrew has given dedicated and loyal service to The Friends for many years now, and the post of Vice-Chairman is richly-deserved.

Andrew's new appointment at the AGM briefly left the post of Treasurer vacant, but no sooner had he stepped down from this post had Elizabeth Gibson been appointed to succeed Andrew. Elizabeth will be familiar to many of you as a friendly face at many events – whose assistance and advice we are lucky to have. We wish both Andrew and Elizabeth all the best in their new roles.



Treasurer Profile: **Elizabeth Gibson**

Elizabeth was married at Westminster Cathedral and both her children were baptised, made their first Communion and Confirmed there. She is a reader at the 8.00am Mass on Sundays and has been a member of The Friends for over 20 years.

She has been a teacher and also worked in the voluntary sector as the Chief Executive of a Charity. She serves as Vice Chair of the Governors at the Grey Coat Hospital School in Westminster.

Vice Chairman Profile: **Andrew Hollingsworth**

Andrew has been a regular member of the congregation at Westminster Cathedral for just over 40 years and joined the Friends 25 years ago in response to an appeal for new members made by Monsignor George Stack at St Mary Magdalene, Willesden Green. He took over as Treasurer from Mike Bolger in May 2003. They had been colleagues at Ernst & Whinney / Ernst & Young.

Andrew has been involved with The Passage since 1983, originally looking after finance and fundraising as a volunteer but as a full time job from 1998 to 2022. He now works as finance and fundraising manager for Initiatives of Change. He is a Catenian and Treasurer of other charities.



The 2022 AGM also welcomed new trustees. Monica Mbanefo, Benedict Jennings, and Sandra McNally were all elected during the meeting – with each of them bringing valuable experience and competencies which will greatly benefit the charity. Here is a little bit about each of them:

Sandra McNally

Sandra is a parishioner of Farm Street Church and a regular pilgrim to Lourdes with the Oxford and Cambridge Pilgrimage (which always coincides with the pilgrimage of Westminster Diocese).



She is originally from Dublin but has lived in London for many years, and often comes to Westminster Cathedral. She works as a professor of economics at the University of Surrey and also directs the Education and Skills Programme at the Centre for Economic Performance,

London School of Economics. On being a trustee, Sandra said 'I look forward to making a contribution to the Friends of Westminster Cathedral in this way- both a privilege and a pleasure'.

Benedict Jennings

Benedict has been involved with life at the Cathedral since his birth, having been a Parishioner, a pupil at WCCS, and married here in 2014, as well as being a life member of the Friends since he left the Choir School in 2000. Benedict lives in Wandsworth and is a parishioner at his local parish



there, running the choir and a member of the parish finance committee, but continues to keep up with life at the Cathedral and often visits. Benedict's mother, Sharon, was a key figure in the Cathedral for many years and restored the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham as well as writing a book on the Chapels of the Cathedral and many other things besides. Benedict is a Knight of Malta and regularly attends various works around the world and goes to Lourdes on Pilgrimage regularly. Benedict works as a Chartered Accountant and Tax Adviser in Lincoln's Inn and is a Trustee of many different charities and looks forward to being a Trustee of the Friends, the Cathedral having been a special place for Benedict for his entire life.

Monica Mbanefo

Monica has been a parishioner at the Cathedral since 1995 and is active in various areas of Cathedral life. She has been an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion since 1996, and was a catechist for First Holy Communion between 1995-2020 – due to resume this ministry this year. Monica has



been a lawyer for over 49 years and was a diplomat at the United Nations from 1991 to 2010. She headed at the directorate level, from 1991 to 2010, three of the six departments of the Inter-

national Maritime Organization (IMO) a United Nations Specialised Agency based in London, before retiring in 2010 as Director of Technical Cooperation.

Aside from her various positions at the Cathedral, she is currently Visiting Lecturer - IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) based in Malta; Senior Adviser- International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), an international organisation based in Paris; Accredited Representative of an intergovernmental organisation, Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA), to IMO meetings; gives lectures and seminars to various organizations and bodies; Partner in Louis Mbanefo & Co Law Firm; Patron of Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA), Nigerian Branch; and Trustee of African Women in Maritime Africa (WIMAfrica).

A New Coordinator for The Friends



By Joe Allen

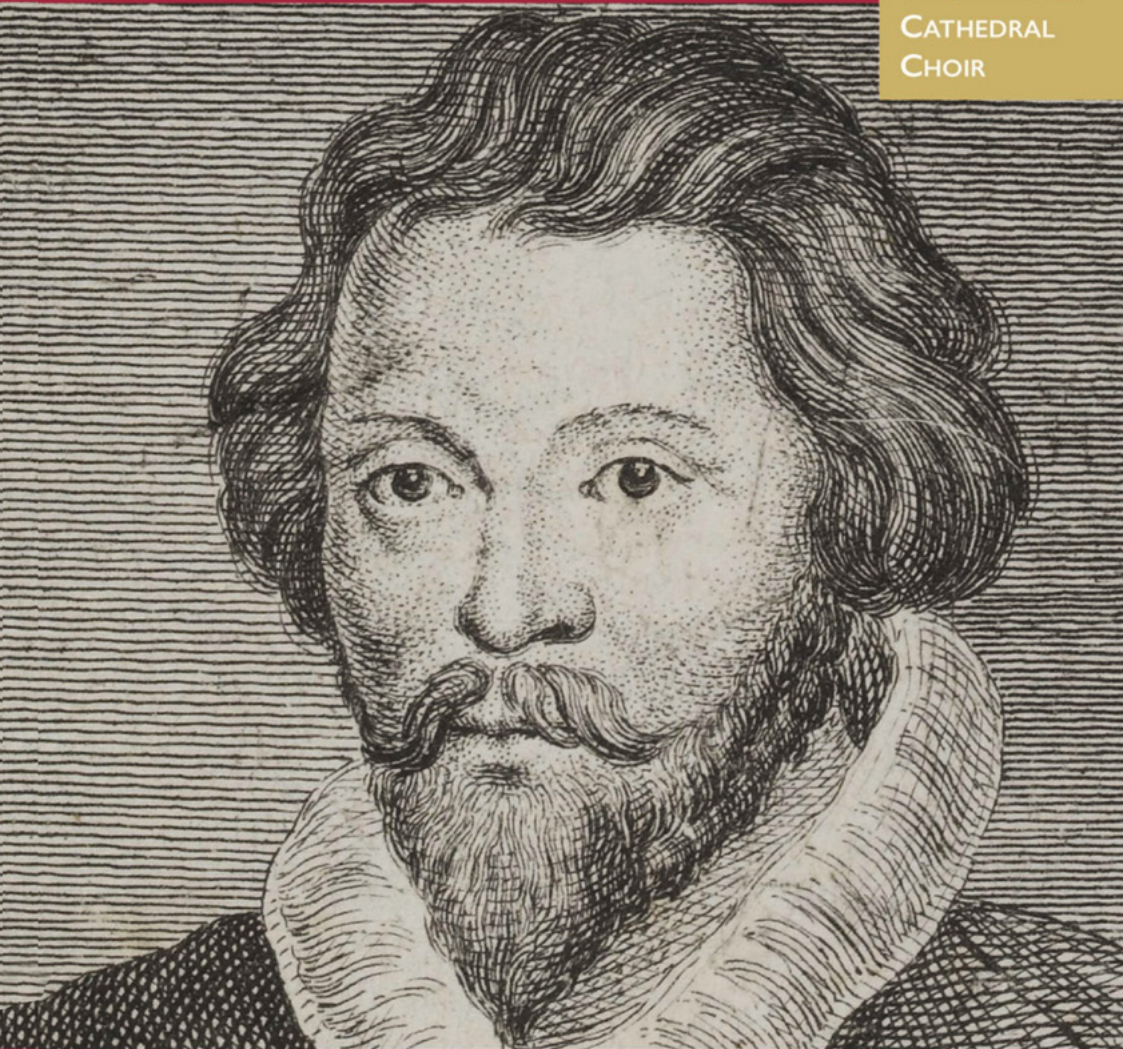
After a vacancy of some months, I arrived at Clergy House in September 2022 as the new Coordinator of The Friends. I join the charity from the University of Exeter where I studied between 2018-2022. I left in Summer 2022 with a 1st Class Honours BA Theology and Religion Degree, and an MA Theology Degree with Distinction. Both of my Dissertations focussed on the Roman Catholic Church, and in particular the Roman Rite liturgy at the Second Vatican Council and during the Pontificates of Francis and Benedict

XVI. Additionally, I have been a volunteer with the charity 'Action for Stammering Children' since 2015, recently joining their Board of Trustees. With a keen interest and experience in both charity and the Church, the opportunity to apply to join The Friends as Coordinator which was just too good to pass up on. I am therefore delighted to be working for The Friends, and the chance to apply my previous charitable experience and develop new skills in a faith-based environment.

I have received a very warm welcome from my colleagues and from various volunteers and members of The Friends over the past few months. I look forward to getting to know more of you and working with members and partner organisations over the coming months to raise much-needed funds for this beautiful Mother Church. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions, queries, or suggestions regarding the running and mission of The Friends. My contact details can be found at the front of this Newsletter.

Let us pray for all those who work and volunteer for The Friends – in thanksgiving for those who have served The Friends until now, and for those starting new posts and taking up new responsibilities.

WESTMINSTER
CATHEDRAL
CHOIR



WILLIAM BYRD 1539 - 1623

To mark the 400th Anniversary of the death of William Byrd, one of Britain's finest composers, Westminster Cathedral Choir will perform the complete works from his *Gradualia* - a set of pieces for the major feasts of the Catholic liturgical calendar - as part of the Masses they were composed for, in our own Cathedral for the first time.



Scan here for details

www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/music/byrd400

Trustees' statement

The trustees confirm that the above financial summary is taken from the full accounts approved on 28 October 2022. 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.

Fr Sławomir Witoń
Chairman
28 October 2022

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 2021 on which we gave an unqualified independent examiner's report.

Sarah Johnson FCCA ACA
Gibson Appleby
Chartered Accountants
1-3 Ship Street
Shoreham by Sea
West Sussex
BN43 5DH
31 October 2022

Vice Chairman's report

Dear Friends

I am reporting on the year to 31 December 2021, during which year I was Treasurer.

At the AGM on 27 September 2022, Andrew Sanders stepped down as vice-chairman and I succeeded him and Elizabeth Gibson succeeded me as Treasurer.

The last two years have been significantly affected by the pandemic and the various lockdowns. Our physical events finished in early March 2020 and the only physical events since then were the year's mind Mass for Fr Christopher for which unfortunately due to ongoing restrictions there could be no reception and a quiz with fish and chips in the Hall in the autumn 2021. It is a tribute to Christina White that the virtual events, the Christmas raffle in both years, the Facebook page and keeping in touch with members all took place so well without the advantage of physical gatherings.

Much of Christina's time in the last fourteen months before her departure at Christmas 2021 was taken up with work on the new Cathedral website. Her time on this project was funded separately from the Cathedral communications fund.

Joseph (Joe) Allen joined us as part time coordinator in September 2022. To some extent we could not afford to take on a full time employee. When I became Treasurer in 2003 the cost of operating the Friends was covered out of membership subscriptions. With declining membership and many long-term life members, whose subscriptions have long been credited to income, our resources for running the Friends is limited. 2023 needs to be the year when we do all we can to recruit new members to ensure that the Friends grows and prospers and can fulfil its mission of raising much needed funds for Westminster Cathedral.

Andrew Hollingsworth
Vice-Chairman

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Summarised accounts: – Income and expenditure – Year ended 31 December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Income		
Subscriptions	15,355	17,233
Net income from events	7,276	7,442
Donations	70,544	74,318
Legacies receivable	170,000	1,000
Interest receivable	24	288
Income tax recoverable	7,000	15,801
	270,199	116,082
Expenditure		
Fundraising and publicity	547	5,372
Cost of operating The Friends	58,531	52,896
Expenditure before grants	59,078	58,268
Net income raised	211,121	57,814
<i>Grants payable</i>		
Grants to Cathedral	17,456	83,546
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources	193,665	(25,732)
Fund balances at 1 January 2021	319,004	344,736
Fund balances at 31 December 2021	£512,669	319,004

Balance sheet – As at 31 December 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
<i>Current assets</i>		
Stocks	962	1,087
Debtors	218,858	74,019
Cash at bank and in hand	297,141	249,488
Total current assets	516,961	324,594
Less current liabilities	(4,292)	(5,590)
Total net assets / Net current assets	£512,669	£319,004
<i>Restricted funds</i>		
Mosaics General Appeal Fund	33,022	33,020
Mosaics St George's Chapel	56,202	40,345
Mosaics St Patrick's Chapel	57,330	57,326
Total Mosaics Funds	146,554	130,691
Cathedral Hall Refurbishment	123,395	88,103
Winter Night Shelter	1,007	1,006
Tower refurbishment	–	5,927
Cathedral Fabric Appeal	1,605	1,604
Cathedral Communications	23,429	50,106
Canon Christopher Tuckwell Memorial	16,968	15,106
Altar Fontals	11,177	–
Total Restricted Funds	324,135	292,543
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>		
Designated Fund Lighting	150,000	–
Accumulated fund	38,534	26,461
Total unrestricted funds	188,534	26,461
Total Funds	£512,669	£310,004

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 28 October 2022

Fr Sławomir Witoró

Forthcoming Events... A taste of what's to come

Over the coming weeks and months there are a variety of events taking place which we trust will be of interest to Friends... whether its quizzes, talks, walks, or unveilings – we hope you will consider joining us at one or more of our events!

Full Event Schedule



Thursday 4th May, 6:30pm **Quiz and Fish & Chip Night Supper**

With the rigours of Lent completed and the joy of Eastertide with us, come and celebrate with a Quiz! Join us for an evening of socialisation and gentle quizzing competition. Tickets include general admission alongside Fish and Chips provided by *The Laughing Halibut* on Strutton Ground (dietary alternatives available upon request). There will alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks available, as well as a raffle. Don't have a team to come along with? We can assemble teams on the night, so do sign up whether you're coming en masse or you're a quizzing lone ranger! This event will take place in Westminster Cathedral Hall. Tickets are £20 and advance booking is essential.

Thursday 11th May, 6:30pm **Coronation Walking Tour**

Acclaimed writer and speaker Joanna Bogle will be hosting this special event for The Friends, to coincide with the Coronation of HM King Charles III. As well



as being extensively published through *Gracewing*, Joanna is the Principal Guide at *Catholic History Walks*. As such, she is uniquely placed to guide us around Westminster to celebrate past and present coronation stories. Meeting on the steps of Westminster Cathedral at 6:30pm, we will discover the history of St James Park and pass Buckingham Palace and find out about its pre as well as post-royal history. Encounter the Chapel Royal, a Grand Old Duke of York, and the 2023 Coronation route. Pass by the site of Charles I spent his final hours, and the statues of some of the men who served George VI, before finishing at Westminster Abbey. Tickets are £15 and must be booked in advance due to limited numbers.



© Official Royal Family website

Monday 5th June, 6:45pm Talk on St Titus Brandsma

We are very happy to be welcoming Amanda C Dickie, freelance journalist and lay Carmelite to give this talk entitled: *St Titus Brandsma – Prophetic Beacon of Light for the World Today*. Amanda was present at the canonisation of the Dutch Carmelite last year in Rome. She highlights his exceptional life and writings as a Carmelite Mystic, Journalist, Pioneer Ecumenist and Martyr of Dachau. This talk will take place in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House Library with tickets priced at £10. You can purchase a ticket in advance or on the night. Please assemble in the Lady Chapel at 6:30pm to be escorted through to the Library. *Please note: the Cathedral doors close at 7pm – latecomers after this time cannot be admitted.*



© National Catholic Register

Wednesday 14th June, 6:30pm Quiz and Fish & Chip Night Supper

Where your May will probably be full of national celebrations in addition to the multiple bank holidays, June may well be quieter for you... fear not! The antidote is here in the form of vinegar-soaked fish and chips, and the hope of quizzing victory! Details as above.

Date TBC – mid-late June.

Annual General Meeting

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is a registered charity, and duty-bound to meet annually in this way. At the time of publication of this newsletter, AGM details are still being finalised. Nevertheless, the requisite papers and documents will be issued in good time, along with confirmed details of the meeting date. This is an important and valuable opportunity to get up to speed and share your views with the overall running of The Friends.

Friday 30th June, 5:30pm

Solemn Pontifical Mass with Rite of Blessing of a new mosaic

Fr Witon writes...

I cannot believe that it is nearly three years since the death of our dear Canon Christopher Tuckwell. I am really happy that the Friends' Council had agreed that the mosaic of St Augustine of Hippo, the last mosaic Canon Christopher commissioned for the Cathedral, should be installed in his memory. The mosaic will be blessed and the appropriate inscription unveiled on 30 June 2023 at the 5.30 p.m. Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral presided over by HE Cardinal



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Vincent Nichols and concelebrated by the Canons of the Cathedral. I really hope you can join us for this happy occasion.

Purchasing Tickets

There are multiple ways you can purchase tickets for our events. For events where tickets can be purchased on the door, you can do this and pay via cash, cheque, or card. For events offering/requiring advance purchase, this can be done via the Friends webpage at <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-cathedral-community/the-society-of-friends-of-westminster-cathedral/> or by contacting the Coordinator, Joe Allen, at the address on the inside cover of this Newsletter.

*Event Schedule Photo Credits: BBC Good Food, Royal Family, National Catholic Register, CBCEW/Marcin Mazur
Photo Credit below: CCN/cbcew.org.uk*



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Watch this space...

Do keep an eye out for your AGM papers and documents which will be sent in due course. Not only will they lay out the agenda and content for the Annual General Meeting, but they will also contain notification of one or two exciting events for the summer. Presenting opportunities to gather socially in the summer sun, as well as experience the Cathedral in an exclusive way – details will be with you soon.

As is the custom of The Friends, a schedule of events between April-early July, there will then follow a hiatus of events until September 2023. We hope that you will enjoy the upcoming set of events, and send all good wishes for whatever your summer may have in store.

Membership – an appeal from the Coordinator

The vitality and productivity of The Friends, and therefore fundraising for the Cathedral, depends on a numerous supporter base. If you are reading this, then it is likely that you are already a member of The Friends, and will have seen first-hand through contribution or observation the important work of this charity.

To this end, I will not seek to ‘preach to the converted’, but to encourage you to spread the word. Do you know someone who may be interested in joining The Friends? Are some of the dynamics of the charity, such as the fellowship of events or the charitable work of fundraising something which your friends, your parish, or an organisation you belong to may be interested in?

What we are asking of our members at this moment is an investment of your time. A commitment to reach out to those you know. In many ways the work of The Friends is two-fold. There must be a strong focus on the present – fundraising for, and advancing projects which are of short-term priority. But we must also focus on strengthening and guaranteeing a future for The Friends, and therefore a key funding stream for the Cathedral.

Alternatively, do be in touch with me as the Coordinator of The Friends if you have a suggestion for reaching new groups and demographics. I will be more than happy to take up your suggestions and make contact. Whether they be

parochial, secular, social, or sacred – if you know of an organisation which may appreciate our events and our mission – then please let me know.

Membership can serve a whole host of interests, including but not limited to:

- **Charity.** Your membership fee, and your ticket fees for events constitute charitable giving and the tangible support of a major religious place of worship.
- **Adventure.** Involvement in The Friends will inevitably involve discovering new places, whether that be a religious or cultural site within or without the M25 – or perhaps even a side-chapel or nook of the Cathedral which you never knew existed (I’ve seen this happen first-hand trust me!)
- **Learning.** Whether you’re sat at a speaker event or exploring a lesser-spotted sacristy, Friends events are sure to expand your religious and wider knowledge.
- **Fellowship.** Our events welcome speakers from all over the country and world, as well as Friends from London, the South East, and further afield. People from all walks of life congregate and socialise at our events, and we’re ready to welcome you too.

Support Westminster Cathedral

Join The Friends Today

The Friends
OF WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Registered charity no. 272899

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

UK Membership £30 Europe Membership £40 Rest of World £50

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

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

Email (by giving this email address I consent to being contacted by email) _____

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 _____ 2023 and annually on the same date thereafter

Name on account (please print) _____

Bank and branch address _____

Account Number Sort Code -

Signature _____ Date _____

Overseas Members may prefer to make their subscription payment via BACS. Please note, this option is for overseas members only: Swift code BUKBGB 22 IBAN GB06BUKB 2006 1320 8518 41

Gift Aid

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

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.

Data Protection

We hold all information given to us by members, including contact details, payments, donations and Gift Aid declarations. We ensure that your information is kept private and is only used to carry out the Society's activities. Please visit our website to read our full privacy policy.

www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/privacy.php

I consent to being contacted by: Email Phone Post

Signature: _____ Date: _____

AMERICAN FRIENDS- American taxpayers can receive a US income tax deduction for their contributions to support the work and heritage of the Cathedral by directing their contributions to American Friends of Westminster Cathedral, Inc., a non-profit 501(c) (3) Organization (EIN#13-2983174). Contact Ms. Una Chang, President, American Friends of Westminster Cathedral, Inc., 125-15 25th Road, Flushing, New York 11354, U.S.A., e-mail: Chang1@aol.com

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Oremus

The Magazine of Westminster Cathedral

A monthly 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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