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Oranges & Lemons

COVER STORY: 1 April 1918 - RAF Halton is Born



**The Friends of
St Clement Danes**

**Issue No. 46
Autumn 2018**

The Friends of St Clement Danes

Registered Charity No. 1048757

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O&L Bulletin

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The Friends of St Clement Danes

Bulletin
No. 46
Autumn 2018

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
St Clement
Danes Church



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“Enabling the sacrifices of the past to support the challenges of the future”

Editorial Note

Iza Seabrook



It is my pleasure to edit the autumn issue of Oranges & Lemons. It's been a memorable year with plenty of celebrations and some heart-felt good-byes. Please do share this Oranges and Lemons with Friends and Family.

I hope you find time to visit us soon. If you have articles or pictures you wish to see published, please email me: iza.seabrook@gmail.com

THINGS TO DO

- **Tell your friends and neighbours about us**
- **Visit us whenever you are in London**
- **Pray for all who work and visit here**
- **Help out on one Sunday a year**
- **Become a guide to a group of visitors**

Please contact us: 020 7242 8282 or stclementdanes1@btconnect.com or through the website if you can help out, especially on a Sunday; be a sidesman / woman, macebearer or read a lesson; we can support and encourage you in your new duties.

Chairman's Letter

Group Captain Mark D Heffron MA FCIS CMgr FCMI RAF



I welcome you to the autumn 2018 edition of Oranges & Lemons. We approach the end of a fantastic period of celebration in the RAF's centenary year. The Friends have been involved in much of that celebration, including the RAF Foundation Service and the RAF Centenary Year Service held on 10 July simultaneously with the service at Westminster Abbey, as well as many celebratory events throughout the past six months. I am grateful to all who

assisted in these events and also those who supported the Friends at our Annual service in June.

We now look forward to our Annual Concert due to take place on 29 November, at which we will host high-level supporters of our work, in what will be one of the last events celebrating the RAF Centenary year.

In addition to reading about the various events outlined above, I commend the articles in this magazine on RAF Halton and also the RAF's own steam train, all part of this year of celebration.

Finally, but by no means last in our thoughts, we remember Kenneth Allen, retired Head Verger of St Clement Danes, who sadly passed away a few months ago. His service to this central church of the RAF and to its reach across the Service was immense; I pay tribute to him and his family.

As I have always said, it is a team effort at this church: the main St Clement Danes Board, the permanent staff and the Friends – Ken Allen was a part of that team.

I look forward to your continued support and to seeing you hopefully on 29 November. Thank you.

Trustees' Book

Located within the crypt at St Clement Danes is The Trustees' Book. The book contains the names of people who have died since leaving the Royal Air Force.

Names can be included at the request of family members of the deceased, for which a fee of £40 is payable.

To apply for an entry in The Trustees' Book please email: st.clementasst@btconnect.com and request an application form.



From the Resident Chaplain

The Reverend David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF



The good news is that we now have a full set of tunicles (tunicles are tabard-like vestments worn by assisting ministers).

A generous gift from the Friends of St Clement Danes has enabled us to buy new tunicles for the church (one in each of the main liturgical colours: white, red, green and purple), replacing the tired and worn-out items that have been in use for the last 60 years.

It is thoughtful donations such as this that have been the hallmark of the contribution of the Friends throughout its existence – nearly always tangible, the commissioned anthem at the RAF 100 service being a spectacular and very successful exception.

So it is with grateful thanks that I welcome you to the Autumn edition of O&L assuring you of our gratitude for all that you, the members, do for the ministry of the church in this place.

As I write we still have much to celebrate in this centenary year of the RAF, not least the Chaplains Branch 100th anniversary at the end of November.

We hope to provide an overview of the whole year in our Spring edition, but suffice to say that it has been a tremendous few months so far.

One person asked if it was not a bit tiring and I thought of those wise words of Posh Spice: 'it's exhausting, being fabulous'.

With best wishes from all of us!

Snippets from SCD

Easter Flowers

Thank you all so much for your donations for the Easter Flowers. Lynn and Keith Grout were able to produce a fabulous floristry display for the 1 April service thanks to the generosity of so many people. Lynn spent a long time planning and executing the arrangements and we are very grateful for the work that she did that weekend. The flowers made a great contribution to the beauty of the church.

Bishop Tim Thornton

Bishop Tim Thornton has been able to find time in his very busy schedule to be with us for two services since he took over as the Anglican Bishop to HM Forces. He preached at the service of the Reception of the Cross of Nails and presided at the Eucharist on the occasion of Padre Chaffey's last Sunday as Chaplain-in-Chief.

The Lord has been seen at SCD

Yes, it is true the Lord has indeed been seen at the church of St Clement Danes. Actually it was Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, who was taking a break from filming with James Corden in the Strand. The church crypt is occasionally used by film companies for extras to rest between takes – disconcertingly one film recently was set in the 1940s and everyone walking in and out of church was dressed appropriately. It was almost as if we had gone back nearly 80 years.

And talking about going back ...

A blast from the past: from 'The Anchor' (the SCD parish magazine) of October 1929, the Rector writes:

The Organ

Alas! One Sunday during Service this broke down and was silent owing to serious trouble with the hydraulic blowing apparatus. We have heavy expenses thus suddenly sprung upon us – and need £100, which will enable electric blowing to be installed... Will you and your friends come forward and enable us to put the organ in safe and good working order? Cheques may be sent to the Churchwardens at the Anchorage. To lovers of music I feel sure this will prove an occasion of happiness as it will enable them to give freely of their best, and thus prove their real appreciation of past enjoyment and the certainty of future.

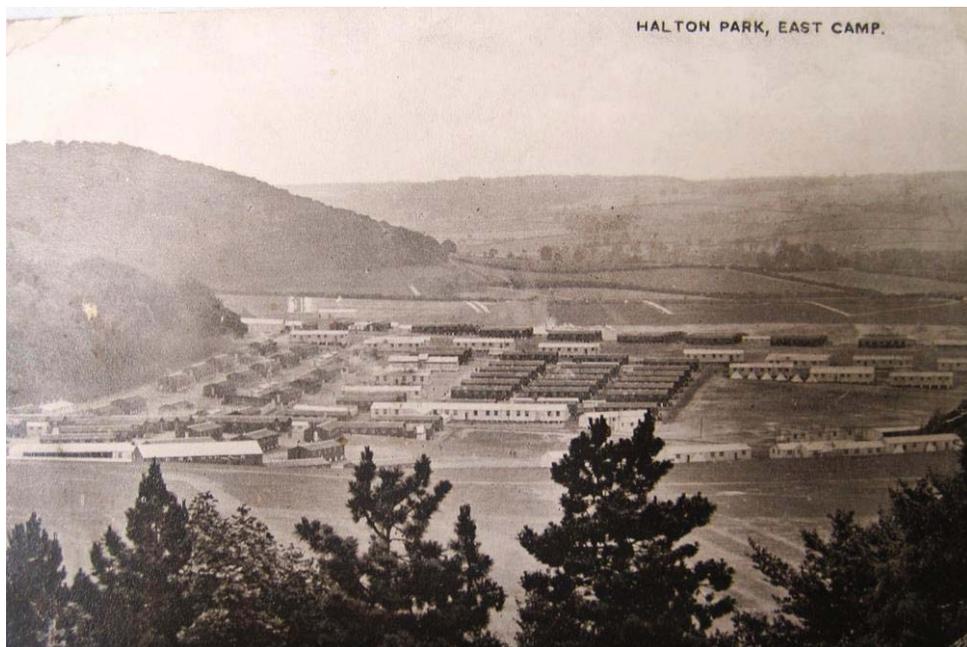
In the adverts

Furnished apartments, opposite the Royal Courts of Justice; apply Mrs Scott, 17 Devereux Court; terms moderate; gas fires and water on each floor.

COVER STORY: 1 April 1918 – RAF Halton is Born

Francis Handford

Tuesday 1 April 1918 dawned on Halton Camp in much the same way as did any other day during that long and unpleasant winter. While the top echelons of the new Royal Air Force and Air Ministry were trying to make sense of the amalgamation of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) and the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) into a co-ordinated whole, those at the work face had jobs to do and a war to fight. In Halton's case hostilities were of no immediate concern but the tasks involved in creating a consolidated training school for mechanics was proving to be extremely challenging.



There is no doubt that the decision to form the RAF was sound. The necessity of having air power available for every aspect of the conflict made the allocation of resources extremely difficult and it was only natural that the War Office and the Admiralty should each see their own particular responsibilities as paramount. This had led to bitter conflicts in the field of procurement and disputes over responsibilities in areas that both regarded as side-lines to the major campaigns they were waging in France and on the high seas. The situation had come to a head over the defence of London from air raids, first by the Zeppelins and then, much more seriously, by the Gothas and other German long-range bombers flying over the capital in broad daylight. The heavy casualties and complete inability of the air defences to inflict any damage on the invaders had caused a major political crisis which provoked Lloyd George to form the committee under General Jan Smuts which recommended the formation of a unified Air Ministry and a completely independent force that would become the RAF. Thus the Air Force Act received the Royal Assent on 29 November 1917 and the King approved the title Royal Air Force in a Royal Proclamation on 7 March 1918.

Meanwhile, Halton Camp had its own worries. Originally the land had been lent to the War Office by Mr Alfred de Rothschild in September 1914 for the training of the 21st Division, which was a third of Lord Kitchener's volunteer armies. That year's unusually wet winter had compelled the Army to replace its tents with three brigade camps of wooden huts. These, hastily constructed by McAlpine's were completed in April 1915. Three months later the 21st Division departed for France handing the whole establishment over to the East Anglian Reserve Division for the training of reinforcements. At the beginning of 1917 this division's task was

running down, just as the provision of training for RFC mechanics was reaching crisis point.



Formed on 15 April 1912, the RFC had had very little time to develop its organisation before being plunged into the greatest war the planet had yet to experience. Its few mechanics had come, in the main, from the Royal Engineers and they were not parting with any more. Those it had recruited elsewhere had been trained at the Royal Aircraft Factory, Farnborough, or at Netheravon on Salisbury Plain. By 1916 the support needed for the growing flying task had increased enormously and these were augmented by No 1 School of Instruction in Reading. Technical training was also contracted to a number of Polytechnic Institutes and a school in Edinburgh. A few months later a redundant jam factory at Coley was added to the mix.

Meanwhile the RNAS had set up its own school at Eastchurch. Then in mid-1917 it was decided to double the number of squadrons in the RFC. To meet the inevitable increase in demand for mechanics and to centralise their training it was decided to take advantage of the infantry's rundown at Halton. Thus on 10 September 1917 the School of Technical Training was officially established under the energetic command of Lieutenant Colonel Ian Bonham-Carter. The bulk of the fitters, riggers and the school headquarters had moved in already.

While there was plenty of basic hutted accommodation available, workshops were needed. So, Colonel Sadler of the Royal Engineers moved in with a workforce that included German prisoners-of-war, who needed to be guarded in special accommodation. They duly laid the foundations of a structure with twelve 500' x 50' bays in November into which the various trades moved as soon as each was completed. Even with a building of this size not all trades could be accommodated; so, riggers and sailmakers continued at Reading; photographers, wireless mechanics and operators at Farnborough; armourers at Uxbridge; air gunners at Hythe and airship handlers at Poldu in Cornwall. Also, there was a lodger unit from the Australian Flying Corps. This was a reception and distribution depot for all their personnel arriving fresh from overseas. Amongst these were their own mechanics who needed to be added to the training task.

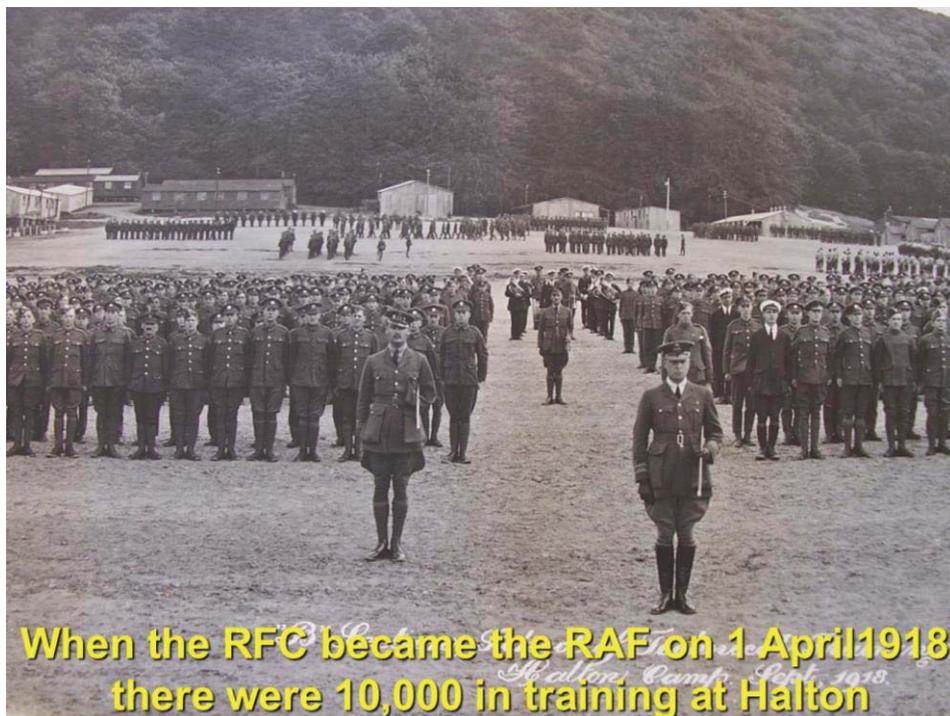
A further complication came with, what was about to become, the Women's Royal Air Force. At the beginning of the conflict a variety of women's volunteer groups had sprung up to help the war effort with nursing and many other tasks. In 1915 the Women's Legion had been formed to "help the army with its cooking and cleaning" and the War Office accepted them to release men for other tasks.

Soon they were being used as secretaries and, as their numbers increased, they spread from hospitals and convalescent homes to military camps generally. Also, they added driving motor transport to their range of skills in 1916 as the RFC, being the only fully motorised branch of the army, needed plenty of drivers. 1917 saw the creation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps with Army Council Instructions setting out terms of service, designating trades, training and uniform. Shortage of accommodation for females brought in a division between Mobiles, who lived on camp and could be transferred, and Immobiles, who lived at home and were collected daily by motor lorry. Many of these women had to be trained, especially when they started taking on technical tasks as dopers, riggers and mechanics.

If all of this were not enough, there were the boys. In late 1916, while the outcome of the war remained uncertain, it was decided to follow a centuries-old service practice and recruit boys to the RFC as trainee mechanics. Thus, in May 1917 advertisements appeared in the *Aeroplane* magazine and in the local newspapers of several of the larger cities for applicants between 15½ and 17 years old. These applicants were to be physically fit, to have reached standard VI at school and to be able to produce a certificate of good moral character. Soon some 400 boys were encamped in tents at Farnborough, issued with a uniform and introduced to military discipline and drill. In June they were transferred to Halton where their numbers grew steadily. No one seems to have given much thought to their training, as a contemporary account records their days were filled with drill and fatigues, under ex-infantry NCOs, with only the preparation for the Military Certificate of Education to stretch their minds. Living in dilapidated huts through a harsh winter, disease was rife with scarlet fever, diphtheria, impetigo, smallpox

and even meningitis causing huts to be quarantined and there was even the occasional death. In January 1917 the whole camp had to be isolated with coloured patches sewn to the boys' uniforms to identify the particular disease from which the wearer was suffering.

From all this we must gather that, at Halton, 1 April 1918 was not a



very special day. It is true that during March a pamphlet had been issued to all ranks giving the conditions of transfer to the RAF and their new rates of pay.

It also informed them that they could give notice that they did not wish to be transferred within three months, but otherwise there is no record of any special notice being taken of the change. New ranks,

uniforms and other such details would take time to appear and the first recorded sighting of the new RAF Ensign was at Cranwell some eight days later. Meanwhile, for men, women and boys life went on and they made the best of it. However, from these harsh and somewhat chaotic beginnings grew an establishment which became a centre of excellence for technical, medical and dental training through to the 1990s. Since then it has been the Gateway to the Royal Air Force for all airmen and airwomen recruits and has trained many service personnel in other disciplines essential to the effectiveness of the service.



Goodbye to Ken

2 March 1932 - 29 July 2018

Christine Goodair



In 1975 Ken took an early retirement from the RAF in order to take up the post of Head Verger at St Clement Danes. This was a most suitable post for him as he had been actively involved in all the churches on every base he was stationed at as choirmaster and organist. Whilst stationed in Egypt in the early 1950s he helped build a church in the desert. There is a family story that the only reason he was posted to RAF Marham (twice) was because they needed a

church organist!

Ken served the Church full-time for 23 years and for many more years in a part-time capacity after his “retirement”. He was involved in the organisation of many important services and Royal visits. His interest in verging went beyond St Clement Danes as he was Chairman of the London Branch of the Guild of Vergers of the

Church of England for some years and kept in touch with them after his retirement.

Ken was a keen photographer and took many photographs of the Church which he freely gave to be used for postcards, sold in aid of the Church.

Once, whilst at St Clement Danes, a suspicious parcel was delivered. Ken, with his bomb disposal training, took it apart and only then phoned Bomb Disposal!

In total his service to the RAF was nearly 55 years. Both the RAF and St Clement Danes was a proud part of his life.



Ken was born on 2 March 1932 in Limehouse, east London, the only son of Sidney and Maud Allen. In his childhood he learned to play the piano, the organ and was a chorister in Melton Mowbray Parish Church. This started a life-long passion for music and he

took a great interest in the music at the church, working closely with the choir and organists.

Martindale Sidwell, the then organist at St Clement Danes, was unable to play for evensong at short notice. Ken took his place and after the service people commented on how well Martindale Sidwell had played!

The family have received many moving tributes to Ken's time at the church. He was described as the perfect verger, utterly reliable and always courteous and welcoming to visitors and tourists alike. In his ceremonial duties he was dignified and carried them out perfectly and personified the high reputation of the efficiency of the RAF. Ken was loyal to the Church of which he was fiercely proud and loyal to the Chaplains' ministry there – they always knew that the church was in safe hands.

The Changi Association added that they were indebted to him for his enthusiasm and support over many years in arranging their annual St George's Changi Fellowship Reunion Services.

His experience and knowledge gained of liturgy at St Clement Danes was clearly shown in the funeral service he wrote, and the choice of music was clearly influenced by the music he so enjoyed hearing at the Church.

Finally, it was very fitting and much appreciated by the family that the Head Verger's Wand was used during the procession at Ken's Funeral.

From the Registers

We are delighted to have shared in families' excitement when they come to St Clement Danes for a Baptism or Wedding.

Baptisms

Florence Charlotte McCann (21 January 2018)
William Alexander McCann (21 January)
Jacob Richard Barton (21 January)
Isaac Allum James Over (4 March)
Isla Sophia Cookson (18 March)
Amelia Marie Baker (18 March)
Charlotte Daisy Victoria Wood-Smith (8 April)
Elizabeth Victoria Cicely Halanen (6 May)
Jacob Joseph Frileux (6 May)
Jemima Grace Sims-Sweetman (3 June)
Alastair Richard Hill (1 July)
Robyn Lucy Shelton (15 July)
Thomas Albie Bowerman (5 August)

Weddings

James D Hollas & Rachel A Stanley (17 March)
Alexander G R Norman & Emma L Cussell (5 May)
Murray R Castle & Carole G A-S Musset (19 May)
Kieran R J Tinkler & Helene E Gold (16 June)
Daniel P Barker & Jacqueline Chiu Ki Tsang (30 June)
Joseph Isaac Mulae and Lyndsay Goetz (21 July)
Edward O W Jones & Lucy A D Illiff (11 August)
Jonathan D Comfort & Holly J Hughes (11 August)
Robert West & Joanne S Kelland (17 August)

**Requests for Baptisms and Weddings should be made
to the Resident Chaplain**

Church Diary

All services at 11.00 unless stated otherwise

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| 07 | Oct | Choral Eucharist and Baptism |
| 14 | Oct | Morning Prayer: Women in the RAF Service |
| 21 | Oct | Choral Eucharist |
| 28 | Oct | Choral Matins |
| 04 | Nov | Choral Eucharist and Baptism (tbc) |
| 11 | Nov | Remembrance Sunday service 10.50 |
| 18 | Nov | Choral Eucharist: St Clement |
| 25 | Nov | RAF Chaplains' Branch 100th Anniversary Service |
| 02 | Dec | Advent Sunday Carol Service |
| 09 | Dec | RAF Benevolent Fund Carols at 15.00 |
| <i>Tickets may be obtained directly from the RAF Benevolent Fund</i> | | |
| 16 | Dec | Choral Eucharist and Baptism (tbc) |
| 23 | Dec | Choral Matins |
| 24 | Dec | Midnight Mass at 23.00 (11pm) |
| 25 | Dec | Choral Eucharist for Christmas Day |
| 30 | Dec | No service this Sunday |
| 06 | Jan | Choral Eucharist for Epiphany |
| 13 | Jan | Choral Matins |
| 20 | Jan | Choral Eucharist and Baptism (tbc) |
| 27 | Jan | Choral Matins |
| 03 | Feb | Choral Eucharist |
| 10 | Feb | Choral Matins |
| 17 | Feb | LASER ATC Service |
| 24 | Feb | Choral Matins |
| 03 | Mar | Choral Eucharist and Baptism (tbc) |
| 06 | Mar | Ash Wednesday service at 12.30 |

**Annual General Meeting of the Friends of SCD
Thursday 29 November 2018 at 4pm
The Crypt Chapel, SCD, Strand**

All members of the Friends are entitled to attend and vote. It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend.

Notice issued by Chris Priebe, Secretary.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Chairman's Opening Remarks
4. Election of Council Officers and Members
5. Minutes of 2017 AGM
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of next AGM

As in previous years, audited accounts will be available at the meeting and will be published with the minutes in the next Oranges & Lemons.

A copy of the Friends of St Clement Danes Constitution will also be available.

The 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Royal Air Force: Easter Day 1 April 2018

The Reverend David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF

The Beast from the East had barely slipped away from the UK and, as a reminder, the morning started with some rain and an overcast sky. Fortunately, the sky cleared as the day progressed. The church was full – full of flowers, full of people, full of clergy and full of anticipation. No one was disappointed. Before the Service the Branch Standards of the Royal Air Forces Association and the National Standards of the Royal Observer Corps Association, Air Sea Rescue and Marine Craft Section, Royal Air Force Halton Apprentices' Association, the Royal Air Force Regiment Association and the National Service (Royal Air Force) Association were marched into church having been paraded from Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The St Clement Danes Choir, directed by Simon Over was joined by the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment under the direction of the Principal Director of Music Royal Air Force, Wing Commander Piers Morrell. The organ was played by Charlie Newsome Hubbard our Graduate Assistant. The altar party included Keith Grout and Philip Carter. Mace Bearers were led by Di Bentley and Chris Priebe our Churchwardens.

The parade arrived spot-on-time to the sound of the pipes and the service began. A service full of joy and celebration as befitted the occasion. In a packed programme, a new RAF Ensign was dedicated, a new anthem sung and the Easter message proclaimed in the sermon preached by the Chaplain-in-Chief, The Venerable

Jonathan Chaffey. The words of the RAF 100 collect were pronounced in the prayers and intercessions:

*God of earth and sea and sky,
to whom all creation owes its being,
and in whose service our work takes wing,
pour down upon the Royal Air Force in this centenary year,
the riches of your grace, that striving tirelessly for peace and justice
we may serve with faithfulness and courage,
through the Spirit of Christ our Lord. Amen*

During the service Book I and Book XI were carried through the Church and placed in the sanctuary. Book I was carried by Sergeant Andrea Shaw RAF and accompanied by Sandy Credland and Kerry McNally. Book XI was carried by Sergeant Iain Rush RAF and accompanied by Debbie Bowles and Wendy Parker.

Readings given by Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier Chief of the Air Staff and Senior Aircraftman Sarah McGhin from RAF Northolt, and prayers led by Padre Giles Legood, Padre Paul Mellor and Padre Andrew Wakeham Dawson, contributed to the sanctity of the occasion.

The new anthem was commissioned by the Friends of St Clement Danes Church. Written by Paul Leddington Wright it features words from the Letter to the Hebrews and hidden amongst its harmonies are references to many air force related tunes (you have to hear it to appreciate it). The anthem has been performed subsequently at SCD on 10 July and also throughout the country in places such as Worcester Cathedral. The words are printed below.

Following the service many people stayed behind to look at the beautiful flower arrangements and to attend the said eucharist in the crypt chapel. The bell ringers of St Clement Danes and Tower

Captain Alan Taylor, then successfully rang a full peal that lasted three hours – a fantastic achievement that will be commemorated with a peal board in the ringing chamber. For further details please see below.

Christ Arisen, Heavenward Soaring Paul Leddington Wright

To the name of our salvation laud and honour let us pay, which for many a generation hid in God's foreknowledge lay, but with holy exultation we may sing aloud to-day. 'Tis the name that whoso preaches speaks like music to the ear; who in prayer this name beseeches sweetest comfort shall find near; who its perfect wisdom reaches heavenly joy possesses here. Jesus is the name exalted over every other name; in this name, whene'er assaulted, we can put our foes to shame: strength to them who else had halted, eyes to blind, and feet to lame. Risen Christ, in love adoring, we your blessed name revere, from the grave, your body risen, let us celebrate that you are here, Now forever, heavenward soaring, take our praise throughout the year.

Choir and Musicians from St Clement Danes Church who gave the first performance on 1 April 2018:

Helen Parker; Emma Peaurt; Emma Brain-Gabbott; Cecilia Osmond; William Purefoy; Alex Chance; Rob Burt; David Webb; John Evanson; Jonathan Wood; Lawrence White; Katherine Bennett.

Charles Newsome-Hubbard
Simon Over

Graduate Assistant
Director of Music





Pictured: The Friends of St Clement Danes founder, Group Captain Reverend John Thomas

Bell Ringing for RAF 100 Service

The bell ringers of St Clement Danes Church rang a quarter peal of bells before and a full peal of bells following the RAF Formation service on Easter Day 2018.



The full peal lasted about three and a quarter hours and consisted of:

Grand Sire Caters - approximately 5000 changes or different combinations (changes can't be repeated or otherwise the peal is lost). This involved ten ringers with no substitutes, pauses or rests.

Tower Captain of St Clement Danes: Mr Alan Taylor

You can view examples of ringing at St Clement Danes on YouTube and see some of the history of the bells on the Pathe News website.

The ringers involved were:

Before the service – Clive Stephenson; John Stephenson; Paul Bloomfield; James Laken; Andrew Barham; Will Stungo; Simon Head; Ros Skipper; Jonathan Mills; Colin Friend; Jillian Laken (1st reserve); Alan Taylor (2nd reserve)

The after service peal – Clive Stephenson; Will Stungo; Chris Ridley; Alan Regan; Chris Cooper; David Holdridge; Fred Bone; Mary Bone; Jillian Laken; John Manley

The logo for RAF 100, featuring the text 'RAF 100' in white on a red background, with a stylized white and blue circular emblem below it.

RAF
100

A close-up photograph of a person in a white uniform playing a golden trumpet. The background is blurred, showing other band members.

You are cordially invited to
The Friends of St Clement Danes

ANNUAL CONCERT

*The Central Band of The Royal Air Force
conducted by Flight Lieutenant Chris I'Anson
and the Choir of St Clement Danes*

Thursday 29th November 2018 at 7pm

*Donations: £18 per person for pre-ordered
tickets and £20 per person at the door.
Cheques are payable to 'RAFCTE'*

*Tickets are available by telephone: 01285 713456
Or email: wendyt@rafcte.com
Or post: Friends of St Clement Danes Concert
Douglas Bader House, Horcott Hill,
Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4RB*

*Celebrating RAF100, the programme will include well
known works associated with the RAF alongside
anthems specially commissioned for the Centenary year.
As always there will be something for everybody,
concluding with a carol for all to join in!*

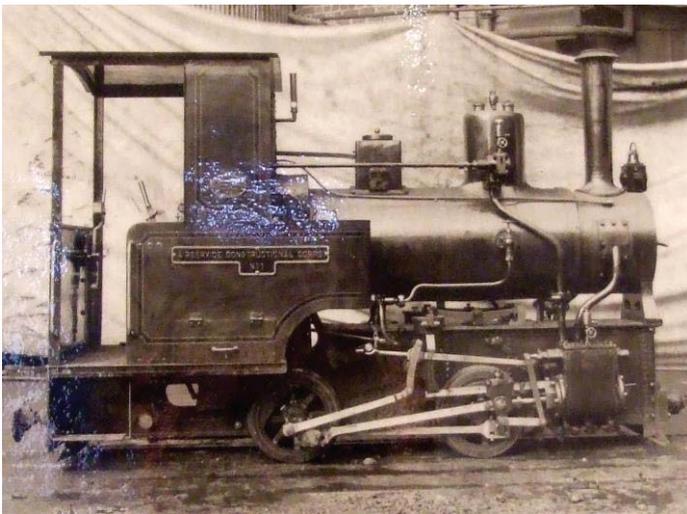
A small sprig of holly leaves with red berries.

Registered Charity No. 1048757

The First RAF Steam Engine: now the Talyllyn Railway Locomotive No 6 Douglas (formerly Air Service Construction Corps No 1)

Chris Hill

I was first involved on the Talyllyn Railway in the early 1960s as a teenager installing the original telephone cable along the line on poles to allow communication between stations, signal boxes and the control at Wharf station. 'Douglas' had recently arrived and was the 'odd' engine, as the original engines inherited by the Preservation Society were 'Saddle tank' engine but Douglas was not... so he was adopted by the working parties and I often drove him. This is his history:



This 0-4-0WT was built by Andrew Barclay & Co Ltd as engine 1431, to Admiralty Instructions for use of the Air Service Construction Corps and delivered to Manston to operate on the 2ft

narrow gauge railway which was built to service the northern side of what was to become RAF Manston. It was delivered on 19 February 1918 and commissioned two days later. The plans were devised for the excavation of an underground operations bunker. This four-coupled engine was intended for service on rough tracks and was

strongly built with a box-section frame forming the water tanks. The firebox rested on top of the frames and the leading edge of the boiler was carried on a cast saddle beneath the smoke box front. Walschaerts valve gear operated the side valves above the outside cylinders. An unusual feature of the design, due to the confined space, was the single transverse plate spring over the rear axle.

By 1921 there was no more work for either 1431 or his driver Leonard Hosken at Manston. Hosken was made redundant and transferred to RAF Calshot. Much to his surprise engine 1431 followed him there in November 1921. RAF Calshot was home to the Flying boat that the newly-formed RAF had inherited from the Naval Air Service. When 1431 arrived its buffers/couplings had to be raised to match the existing rolling stock and he was renamed 'AIRSERVICE CONSTRUCTIONAL CORPS No 1'. No 1431 and its companion Locomotives 1432 & 1433, who were No 2 and No 3 respectively, were painted green with the letters AMWD on the sides of the cab. 1431 and his driver Hosken served together between the wars and throughout World War II and until the Calshot railway was closed in 1945.

Following the closure of the line, 1431 stood idle until 1949 when it was purchased at auction by Abelson & Co (Engineers) Ltd for £80. They intended to use it to fulfil an order for narrow gauge railway stock at a copper mine in India, but that was not accepted by the Indian Government. The line was left in Abelson's hands.

In 1953 the Talylyn Railway Company appealed for another engine to add to its locomotive stock, and Abelson's generously presented 1431, providing he was named Douglas after Douglas Abelson, a Director of the Company. Douglas was converted from 2ft to 2ft 3ins gauge and entered into Talylyn service in 1955 having been fitted

with a new boiler and turned-out in its old Air Ministry Works & Buildings livery.

The first problem at the Tallylyn came when the Railway Inspector refused to issue the licence to operate Douglas on the Railway. In the Inspectors' view there was insufficient clearance under one of the Tallylyn bridges. There appeared to be three options: shorten Douglas's funnel, raise the bridge or lower the track. The result was a quick bit of track-lowering under the offending bridge and the licence was issued.

Douglas has in recent years been painted red as he now doubles for 'Duncan', one of Rev Audrey's 'Thomas the Tank Engine' engines.

On his 100th Birthday he was re-painted in RAF livery for the Year and was formally adopted by the Towyn & Aberdovey RAFA Branch.



Commemorating 100 Years of the Polish Air Force

Iza Seabrook



The role of the Polish Air Force pilots has not been at the forefront of British audiences for a long time. Their history, like that of the Polish Enigma decoders, has been largely untold. That is slowly changing, helped by the release of the new 'Hurricane' movie, starring Iwan Rheon (of Game of Thrones infamy).

It was also addressed by the centenary service at St Clement Danes, held on 8 September, 50 years – to the day – of the commemorative plaque being laid into the floor of the church.

The service was well-attended by guests from round the world with wonderful readings and songs. This was followed by tea at the RAF Club, a fitting venue to continue celebrations and commemorations.

It was a touching moment, personally, to be able to sing both the English and Polish national anthems at St Clement Danes (though I did have to check the words for the second verse ... for both).

Many adopted England as a second home and many gave their lives to keep it free. I think this is a history worth knowing and remembering.

Thank you to all who keep us safe and put our lives ahead of their own.



Pictured above: guests at the commemorative service

Pictured right: Group Captain Mark Heffron and Chaplain-in-Chief John R Ellis





Legacy Appeal

If St Clement Danes is as important to you as the thousands of people it remembers within its walls, we would ask you to consider leaving a gift in your Will for the future preservation and maintenance of this beautiful sanctuary.

For more information please email: st.clementasst@btconnect.com

Application to become a Friend of St Clement Danes

Please complete and return to: The Friends of St Clement Danes,
Strand, London WC2R 1DH

Current Categories to join the Friends are:

Normal Membership by Direct Debit

Corporate Rates please contact the Membership Secretary at the church.

Serving RAF Personnel please contact your Station Representative

Membership renewals are made from 1 July each year. Part-year subscriptions may be made initially to cover an intermediate period.

Please tick the category that you are applying for:

- I wish to join as a single member** and authorise a debit of £25pa**
- We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a debit of £38pa**

*** From my account until further notice; I enclose a completed Direct Debit instruction (page 38)*

- I enclose a completed **Gift Aid Declaration** (turn page)



Name and Surname:

RAF Rank (if applicable):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Signature:

Date:

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I would like The Friends of St Clement Danes to reclaim tax paid on all donations and subscriptions I have made to this charity since 6 April 2012 and any such future payments. I realise that I can only sign this Gift Aid certificate if I have paid enough in Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all charities that I donate to will reclaim for each tax year. Council Tax & VAT do not count and I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I know I can cancel this declaration at any time by advising The Friends of St Clement Danes.

Signature:

Date:





Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Originator's Identification Number

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Please fill in the whole form and send it to: Hon Treasurer, The Friends of St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2R 1DH

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank or Building Society
Address	Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

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3. Branch Sort Code
(from the top right hand corner of your cheque)

4. Bank/Building Society account number

5. Reference Number
(Hon Treasurer to complete)

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay The Friends of St Clement Danes direct debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The Friends of St Clement Danes and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)
Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

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AIR FORCE**
**St Clement
Danes Church**



Our mission is to encourage growth in the membership of the Friends of St Clement Danes through promotion of what St Clement Danes provides spiritually, socially and culturally.

Central Church of the Royal Air Force
Strand, London, WC2R 1DH
www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/units/st-clement-danes-church/