

Oranges & Lemons



COVER STORY: The Shop Window to the World

The Friends of St Clement Danes

Issue No. 38
Autumn 2014

The Friends of St Clement Danes

Registered Charity No. 1048757

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O&L Bulletin

Izabela Seabrook (*Editor*) &
Peter Kettle Esq (*Manager*)

The Friends of St Clement Danes

Bulletin
No. 38
Autumn 2014

 **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



Welcome to the autumn issue of Oranges & Lemons. I would like to thank everyone for their valuable contributions, comments and help in putting this issue together.

Summer is nearly over and both Helen and Henry are growing up fast. Henry's Christening was celebrated at St Clement Danes in June (see page 30).

If you have articles or pictures you wish to submit for the next issue, 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 **stclementdanesh1@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 CMgr FCMI RAF



I am delighted to take over the appointment of Chairman of The Friends of St Clement Danes and am very much looking forward to working with the Council and members for the greater good of our church; the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. As St Clement Danes is the Services Central Church, I intend to concentrate on recruiting more serving and former serving members of the RAF into membership of The Friends, so that in

turn we can support the vital part the Church plays for all personnel past and present. Through strength in numbers and some hard work, we will be able to fulfil more fully our objectives; the restoration, upkeep, improvement and adornment of the fabric of the church, and also the furtherance of the religious, commemorative and other charitable work that the church undertakes. In addition, I believe that we must work closely with the main Trustee body of the Church, where I represent The Friends, in order to ensure that what we do fits with the bigger plan to take the church forward for the generations of the future.

We have much to do, but much has already happened over the past few years and I thank the Council and more specifically my predecessor, Air Cdre Paul Hughesdon for all his hard work in steering The Friends through its work. The Friends of St Clement Danes are a key part of the running of this fine church, which in turn offers much support to those serving and with previous service in the RAF. It is our job to continue to support that vital work, I look forward to playing my part.

From the Resident Chaplain

The Rev'd David Osborn RAF BD AKC PGCE



What a summer it has been.....

The usual round of London events was enlivened by the arrival of the Tour de France on 7 July; thousands of people thronged the Embankment and the Mall to watch the riders arrive at the end of stage three which had started in Cambridge. From the tower of St Clement Danes you could pick out the Caravanne and then the cyclists themselves as the whole Tour arrived in London.

You will be heartened to know that the number of people seeking baptisms remains healthy and although the number of weddings went down a little this summer this was because five ceremonies have been postponed for 12 months; 2015 already looks to be a very busy year.

And talking about 2015 leads me to remind you all to read the article about the re-wiring of the church; this project will take up the first few months of next year and will mean that we will have to close the building for a few weeks. As we go to press we are waiting for the tenders to be returned to give us a much clearer picture of how long the work will take.

For further and up to date information please refer to our website. I will also appraise everyone of the current situation at the AGM and at the Annual Concert.

In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of St Clement Danes Church; we look forward to welcoming you again soon to the Central Church of the Royal Air Force.

David Osborn

The Electrical News

An update on the progress of the electrical works in the church

As you may be aware we are starting a major project to re-wire the church. The electrical system we have now dates from the 1950s and it is well past its sell-by-date. In fact, ever since day one of the rebuilt church, extra electrics have been added (more sockets, more systems, more fuse boxes and switch gear). The *literally* current load is very high, which means one blown light bulb trips out many more light fittings. This work is something we just have to do to ensure the longevity of the church.

We have spent quite a lot of time and money already, designing a new wiring plot that will be as inconspicuous as possible. For example, if you look up to the columns on the gallery they seem to be solid; they are not, they are hollow with a steel support running through them from top to bottom; we aim to thread the new wiring in the space between the support and the column wall.

At the same time we will be upgrading the sound system, hearing loop, CCTV and fire alarms, all of which are getting old. We will refurbish all the light fittings, including the pendants, allowing them to take LED lights. Then we will upgrade the exterior lighting; floodlights and lamp posts etc.

As far as the pendants on the gallery ceiling are concerned we aim to put in a winch system, hidden in the roof void, to enable them to

be lowered; this will make changing light bulbs much safer for all involved.

The overwhelming amount of this work is being done on a like-for-like basis; in other words light fittings etc will be the same, they will just have 21st century bulbs and wiring. Some changes are unavoidable; new regulations on the placing of the fire control panel, for example, mean that we will have to move it from its location on the wall above the inner door to a position much closer to the entrance. All the work is subject to DAC and Faculty approval so we have taken a great deal of advice and guidance from the diocese to ensure that we get things right.



One thing that you need to be aware of is that the church will have to close for a period of about two months, early in 2015 for the work to be carried out. Clearly there will be no power, hence no lighting or heating, no organ, microphones or hearing loop but a lot of equipment, scaffolding, dust and potential danger. It is quicker and

cheaper to hand the building over to a contractor and get all the work done in one go.

Where are we at the moment? Well, the tender document has been drawn and contractors are bidding. A business continuity plan is in draft form looking at office space, phone lines, email, fax etc. as well as storage facilities for all our church furnishings. A faculty submission will be made in the early autumn and we expect to hand over the church in early January, for it to be back in time for the annual Oranges and Lemons service in March.

The biggest question is where shall we worship during the few weeks that we are closed? As we go to print we have been offered the chance to join the congregation at St Mary le Strand – that looks to be the most sensible and convenient place.

Obviously things may change and timings may slip but I will endeavour to keep you informed; if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me and I will do my best to answer them or to find someone who can.



COVER STORY: The Shop Window to the World

Squadron Leader Wayne Palmer

It all started with a phone call from Air Commodore Nigel Beet “Wayne can you help St Clement Danes with their Website?” to which I readily agreed. Having been to the RAF Church many times I was keen to help promote this beautiful place. Knowing where to start is always a problem but having looked at the website I knew the first thing was to get some great photos to help market St Clement Danes, after all the website is the ‘shop window’ to the world.



Welcome to St Clement Danes



Above is a panoramic photograph providing a 360 degree view of the interior of St Clement Danes church. Navigate around the church by using the up/down/left/right arrow keys on your keyboard or by moving the mouse while holding down its left button. You can also zoom in and out by using the on-screen + and - buttons on the photograph, by double-clicking, or by using your mouse wheel, if you have one.

I approached the highly capable Sergeant Ralph Merry at Media and Communications at Air Command and asked if he would mind taking some photos for the website, I also mentioned that it would be a great idea if we could

also have a video. Ralph was extremely helpful and in a very short time had produced a series of photos and a video for the website.

With the help of Peter Kettle I then started to update the website. The website is built to a certain standard and has the RAF Brand emblazoned on each page so there was not a lot of room for manoeuvre. However, with careful placement of the images and text

the website started to come to life and the improvement resulted in increased visits, improved statistics and more people looking at the 'Friends' page.

'So where next' was the question and the answer came from the RAF's digital agency Binary Vision. I am always looking at new ways of improving the web-users' experience and thought a 360° view of the church would be brilliant. John, from Binary Vision, had been experimenting with this and he came across to the church and took hundreds of photographs of the wonderful surrounds. This was a hugely technical task with spirit levels, clamps, tripods and a lot of know-how. John then went off and used a large amount of web trickery to produce a truly amazing view of St Clement Danes. If you have not looked at this I would urge you to have a peak, it is amazing by moving your mouse around you can look at any part of the church. <http://www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdanes/panorama.cfm>

The last bit of the digital puzzle was to ensure that people can find out about St Clement Danes through social media so Facebook and Twitter pages were built to help promote this wonderful place. So I have done my bit and cannot do anymore without your help. For a website, and social media pages, to succeed it needs good, regular content in the form of photos and words. Unfortunately I cannot capture this so need your help by sending me content that can be uploaded to the digital channels. Please send me your stories to wayne.palmer383@gmail.com and I will post the content up to help promote our lovely church. Thank you.

Squadron Leader Wayne Palmer was the Head of RAF Digital from 2006 – 2013 and currently works as a media operations officer on 7644 (VR) Sqn as an RAF Reserve.

Notice of Meeting

**The 21st Annual General Meeting, The Friends of SCD
Thursday 27 Nov 2014 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, Hon Secretary.

Agenda

1. A register of attendance will be available for signature
2. Apologies for absence
3. Chairman's Opening Remarks
4. Election of Council Officers and Members
5. 2013 AGM minutes
6. 2013 Accounts
7. Membership Numbers, Annual Review of Sub Fees & Life
Membership Qualifying Age (see page 35).
8. Any other business.

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 Hunt for a Stolen Head

We need your help. This beautiful sculpture (about a foot tall) has been stolen from St Clement Danes. We would like to get it back! I can't begin to think what kind of a person would steal a memorial from a church but with your help we may be able to find out.

Please publicise the image online, through any groups you may belong to, any connections you may have. Copy the 'Wanted' poster and put it up in your local library, museum or surgery.

Someone will recognise this sculpture somewhere... and help us get it back home. Thank you.

WANTED



STOLEN STATUE

From St Clement Danes Church, Central Church of the RAF, Strand, London
If seen, please contact the local Police Station.

Annual Friends Service Lunch held on 8 June 2014

Sqn Ldr Tina Jessup

This year's Annual Friends Service Lunch got off to a fine start with a resounding service supported by the St Clement Danes Choir. We thought this year we would highlight those friends that we see regularly and tell you a bit about their connection to St Clement Danes and how they ended up attending the Service Lunch.



Barry Wallis attended the service and the lunch and explained that he was a serving airman in the RAF as a photographer and thoroughly enjoyed his time especially in Badelison in Germany. He trained at the RAF School of Photography in RAF Wellesbourne Mountford for 12 weeks where he then went on to serve at his first posting at RAF Nuneham Park in

Oxford. During WW2, Nuneham House and the park around it was requisitioned by the MOD and became RAF Nuneham Park, this is where the Photographic Reconnaissance Interpretation Unit (now the Defence Geospatial Intelligence Fusion Centre based at RAF Wyton) examined the photographs taken by aircraft over enemy territory; Wellesbourne Mountford is now part of Oxford University.

Barry then went to serve two and a half years over in Germany both at Bad Eilsen (HQ for the 2nd Tactical Air Force) and RAF Gütersloh

(HQ for No. 2 Group and home to various fighter aircraft and helicopters). Barry's final tour in the RAF was at RAF Bassingbourn in Cambridgeshire, which was one of the main airfields for long-range transport aircraft (Avro York, Avro Lancaster and Douglas Dakota aircraft and in 1952 the first Canberra bombers).



It must be stated here that Barry's favourite tour was at Bad Eilsen and although this photo is a little earlier it may bring back some good memories for Barry!

Caption: Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham speaking with men and

women of Air Formation Signals section of Headquarters Unit of 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, Bad Eilsen, Germany, early July 1945.

However, that doesn't stop Barry's RAF/SDC connection as he is an active member of the RAF Benevolent Fund as well as most gratefully being a beneficiary. The RAF Benevolent Fund helped him through a very difficult heart by-pass as well as ensured he had the right convalescence that enabled Barry to a full recovery.



David Copp is a Verger at SCD who joined the team in October 2013. He is very enthusiastic regarding all the duties this involves and considers it a privilege to be part of the church and give back to the community and

enjoyment for all who attend/visit SCD. It was through the Church that David learnt about the Friends of SCD via the annual Lunches, AGMs and the Christmas Concerts. He became a member at the last AGM and we extend a very warm welcome to our new member.

Robin and Jennie Youle have a long connection with the SDC Church and members of the Friends of SCD and it is very much a family affair! We have seen Robin, Jennie and their daughter (Fiona) on many occasions over the years but it was through Robin's father that the first connection to SCD arose. Robin's father



was a catering officer in Bomber Command at RAF Marston Moor during the war (RAF Marston Moor was a Royal Air Force airfield at Tockwith, North Yorkshire, during the Second World War defending against any attacks). They both decided to get married in SCD on 24 June 1967 and subsequently had both their children christened in the Church as well (Rupert in 1974 and Fiona in 1976).

Sadly during the lunch afterwards the Venerable (AVM) Ray Pentland said a fond farewell on behalf of all the Friends of SCD to Air Cdre Paul Hughesdon as Chairman of the Friends of St Clement Danes. AVM Pentland thanked Paul for all his hard work in supporting the Church and ensuring that we have a legacy that will continue for a long time to come. Gp Capt Mark Heffron has kindly agreed to take over as Chairman and very much looks forward to meeting everyone and continuing where Paul left off.



Caption: Air Cdre Paul Hughesdon, The Venerable (AVM) Ray Pentland and Gp Capt Mark Heffron

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.

It is a simple process. You can request a free Legacy Giving Guide from the Church Manager.

More information is on our website:

raf.mod.uk/stclementdanesh



You are cordially invited to

**The Friends of St Clement Danes
Annual Concert**

**The Central Band of the
Royal Air Force &**

The Choir of St Clement Danes

*(The Band plays by permission of the Air Force
Board of the Defence Council)*

**Thursday 27 November 2014
at 7pm**

Donation: £12 per person for pre-ordered tickets (groups of 8 or more) £13 per person for pre-ordered tickets (7 or less) and £15 per person for those sold at the door. Cheques are payable to "RAFCTE"

You can obtain tickets by: Telephone: 01285 713456 or Email: dmr@rafcte.com

Post: Friends of St Clement Danes Concert, PO Box 1940, Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4NA

Registered Charity No 1048757

From the Registers

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

Baptisms

Emilia Sophie Hague (22 Dec 2013)
Henry Holland Fletcher (16 Mar 2014)
Freddie Joseph Walker (23 Mar)
Sophie Louise Isobel Evans (30 Mar)
Eva Marie Cairns (26 April)
Amelia Rose Hill (10 May)
Stanley Edward Handley Wedge (18 May)
Henry Robert Paul Seabrook (1 June)
Hannah Clark (22 June)
Felix Sebastian Jenkins (29 June)
Oscar George Curtin Chapman (6 July)
Eleanor Rose Parker (18 July)
Maxwell Edward Arthur Catling (20 July)
Phoebe Charlotte Blair (20 July)

Weddings

Darren Robert Tremble and Emma Howe (1 Feb)
Gregory Derek Tyne and Julie Armstrong (12 April)
Jeffrey M Fitzpatrick and Minnie M Napier-Wright (24 May)
Jonathan Albert Hill and Florence Louise Nisbet (16 Aug)
Matthew John Roper and Claire Rachael Thornley (16 Aug)

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

Readings and Services*

Date	Service	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Gospel
7 Sept Trinity 12	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Ezekiel 33: 7 to 11	Romans 13: 8 to 14	Matthew 18: 15 to 20
14 Sept Holy Cross Day	Choral Matins	Numbers 21: 4 to 9	John 3: 13 to 17	
21 Sept Battle of Britain	BOB Service	1 Samuel 17: 38 to 49	Ephesians 6: 10 to 18	
28 Sept Trinity 15	Choral Matins	Ezekiel 18: 1 to 4 and 25 to 32	Matthew 21: 23 to 32	
5 Oct Trinity 16 Harvest Thanksgiving	Choral Eucharist	Deuterono my 28: 1 to 14	2 Corinthians 9: 6 to 15	Luke 17: 11 to 19
12 Oct Trinity 17 WAAF 75th	Choral Matins	Isaiah 25: 1 to 9	Matthew 22: 1 to 14	
19 Oct Trinity 18	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Isaiah 45: 1 to 7	1 Thessalonian s 1: 1 to 10	Matthew 22. 15 to 22
26 Oct Last in Trinity Bible Sunday	Choral Matins	Nehemiah 8: 1 to 4a and 8 to 12	Matthew 24: 30 to 35	
2 Nov All Saints Sunday	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Revelation 7: 9 to 17	1 John 3: 1 to 3	Matthew 5: 1 to 12
9 Nov Remembrance Sunday	Service of Remembrance	Micah 4: 1-5	John 15: 9 - 14	
16 Nov 2 Before Advent	Choral Eucharist	Zephaniah 1: 7 and 12 to end	1 Thessalonian s 5: 1 to 11	Matthew 25: 14 to 30

23 Nov St Clement	Patronal Festival Choral Eucharist	Proverbs 15.1-4	Philippians 3.17-4.3	Luke 14.7-11
30 Nov Advent Sunday	Advent Sunday Service	Separate Readings (See list below)		
7 Dec Advent 2	Choral Eucharist and ELMS	Isaiah 40: 1 to 11	2 Peter 3: 8 to 15a	Mark 1: 1 to 8
14 Dec Advent 3	Choral Matins	Isaiah 61: 1 to 4 and 8 to 11	John 1: 6 to 8 and 19 to 28	
21 Dec Advent 4	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	2 Samuel 7: 1 to 11, and 16	Romans 16: 25 to 27	Luke 1: 26 to 38
24 Dec Midnight Mass	Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7	Titus 2: 11 to 14	John 1: 1 to 14
25 Dec Christmas Day	Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 9: 2, 6 & 7	Titus 2: 11 to 14	Luke 2: 1 to 14
28 Dec Christmas 1	NO SERVICE			

*all services start at 11am unless specified otherwise

We expect the church to close from Christmas Day until mid-March 2015.

Advent Carol Service Readings

- 1 Zechariah 9.9,10 Rejoice greatly, your king comes to you
- 2 Jeremiah 23.5,6 I will raise up for David a righteous branch
- 3 Psalm 118.19-29 Open to me the gates of righteousness
- 4 Isaiah 9.2,6,7 People that walked in darkness have seen a great light
- 5 Isaiah 7.10-15 Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son
- 6 Romans 12.1,2 Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed

Gospel: (Read by Resident Chaplain) Matthew 25.1-13 Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour

Booklet Lists Battle of Britain Casualties

Geoff Simpson, Trustee, Battle of Britain Memorial Trust

The clamour to record the names of "The Few", and give them an emblem to wear, began in the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Britain. The debate was long and complicated. In 1945 the Air Ministry announced that men who had flown in the Battle would receive the "immediate" award of the 1939-45 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp.

However, it would be another decade and a half before the definition of qualification reached its final form. This decreed that those entitled to the award were aircrew who had made one authorised operational flight between 10 July and 31 October 1940, with one of 71 accredited squadrons and other units under the control of Fighter Command.

Those who received the Clasp included, as well as RAF personnel, men of the Fleet Air Arm and Royal Canadian Air Force. In addition to British and Canadian personnel, the countries of The Few included: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France, the United States and Ireland.



Caption: The late Flight Lieutenant Albert Gregory, DFC finds his name on the Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall. In the Battle of Britain Sergeant Gregory was an Air Gunner with No 219 Squadron

Even in 2014 it is not certain how many men were entitled to wear the Clasp. At Capel-le-Ferne, Kent, the Christopher Foxley-Norris

Memorial Wall at the National Memorial to The Few, features 2941 names. However, the research continues and there is little doubt that more qualifiers will be discovered.



Caption: The Polish war memorial at Northolt. More Poles qualified for the Battle of Britain Clasp than any other nationality apart from British

Now a booklet produced by the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, the custodian of the National Memorial, has cast doubt on the figure of 544 often quoted as the number of Allied aircrew deaths in the Battle. The booklet contains a list of 534 names.

Wing Commander Andy Simpson, the trustee who took the lead in compiling the booklet, explains, "We accept that further research might lead to alterations in our list

and, in some cases, there are problems of definition, for example one pilot died from injuries received on leave. However, there seems no doubt that, at least for deaths and fatal injuries in action during the Battle, we need to discard '544'."

The booklet shows that the most senior officer to be lost during the Battle was Wing Commander Johnny Dewar, DSO, DFC, Officer Commanding, RAF Exeter, who had led No 87 Squadron during the Battle of France. He was killed, aged 33, in September 1940, in still unexplained circumstances and is buried in the churchyard at St John the Baptist, North Baddesley, Hampshire. In contrast, AC2 Norman Jacobson, was an 18-year-old radar operator with No 29 Squadron when he failed to return from a sortie on 25 August 1940. He is remembered on panel 27 of the Runnymede Memorial. The name of the pilot of his Blenheim, Pilot Officer R A Rhodes, is on

panel 9 at Runnymede, while the air gunner, Sergeant R J Gouldstone, is buried at St Martin's church, Ryarsh, Kent



Caption: The private grave in which Sergeant Rufus Arthur Ward is buried at Croydon (Mitcham Road) Cemetery, Surrey. Sergeant Ward was a Spitfire pilot with No 66 Squadron when he was killed in action on October 8 1940. He was known as "Rufus" to his family, but his wife preferred to address him as "Arthur".

Copies of *Aircrew Casualties of the Battle of Britain, 1940* are available at the visitor centre at Capel-le-Ferne at £6.50 or, by post, for £8.50. Telephone the visitor centre on 01303 249292 to pay by credit card. www.battleofbritainmemorial.org.

Join us at **St Clement Danes, the Central Church of the Royal Air Force**, on **Sunday 14 December, 5.30 - 7.30pm**, for a special performance of the classic aviation Christmas story

The Shepherd by Frederick Forsyth

Actor **Nigel Anthony** performs a compelling new adaptation of **The Shepherd** by Amber Barnfather with evocative music and sound effects, featuring the Vampire's jet engine and the Merlin engines of the Mosquito shepherd aircraft. **Frederick Forsyth**, who at the age of 19 was one of the youngest pilots in the RAF, will give a short introduction to his haunting and thrillingly authentic story.

The performance will last for about 45 minutes and there will be drinks before and after in the church.

Tickets (£12, including drinks) are available from **Debra Erskine**, at **1-2 Percival Terrace, Brighton BN2 1FA** (Mobile: 07769 251095). Please make cheques payable to Debra Erskine. All profits to the **RAF Benevolent Fund**

29 (F) Squadron: The History of a Fighter Squadron (Pt 3)

Wg Cdr Chris Hill



In Sept 1940, the Bristol Beaufighter arrived, the first step in providing the Sqn with an effective night fighter. The crews were

suitably impressed with the heavy armament 4 x 20mm cannons in the nose and 6 x .303in machine guns in the wings also the large flat bullet-proof windscreen which provided an excellent field of view and the pair of Bristol Hercules radial engines which gave a top speed of 320 mph. There was no provision for gunners but the radar operator had a cockpit aft fitted with a Perspex blister which afforded a good all-round view. On the night of 17 Sept, the first Beaufighter sortie was flown, but it was not until Feb 1941 that sufficient Beaufighters were available to replace the ageing Blenheims. In Nov 1940, Flt Lt Guy Gibson, later to become famous as leader of the “Dambusters” and winner of a VC, joined the Sqn, later becoming B Flt Commander.

The German bomber raids against British cities brought more frequent encounters. On the night of 13/14 March 1941, the German bombers were attacking Liverpool and streams of enemy aircraft crossed the east coast on their way to and from the target. Fg Off Bob Brabham and Sgt Ross successfully intercepted a Dornier off the Norfolk coast, which blew up after a burst of fire from 60 yards! Later the same night, Wg Cdr S C Widdows, the CO, with Sgt Ryall, intercepted a Junkers Ju 88 over Lincolnshire, sending it down near Horncastle after a short burst of fire from 100 yards. The following evening, Flt Lt Guy Gibson and Sgt James attacked a Heinkel He 111, but unfortunately the cannon jammed. The observer, who in a Beaufighter had access to the breeches from his cockpit, rectified

the fault, but after a further short burst, the cannon jammed again. Debris from the enemy bomber dented the Beaufighters' wings as it crashed into sea two miles off Skegness.

The following month, April, the Sqn moved south to West Malling (Kent), on the direct bombing route for London. This resulted in a marked increase in trade and the roll of enemy bombers continued to grow. By mid-summer, the night bombing offensive had decreased considerably as German bomber units were transferred to the comparatively safer Russian Front. During the winter months a far greater proportion of German bombers were destroyed as radar equipment and interception techniques improved.



The Sqn had a memorable night on 17/18 Jan 1943, when up to 50 enemy bombers

attacked London and some 27 interception sorties were flown. The first contact was made by F S Wood (RAAF) and Plt Off Slaughter, who used up all their ammunition on a Ju 88 without seeing it crash. Meanwhile, Fg Off A C Musgrave and Sgt J Petrie successfully attacked Ju 88 which was last seen diving in flames. At the same time, Wg Cdr C M Wight-Boycott, the CO, with Fg Off E A Saunders were making names for themselves. Diverted from an exercise by ground control to intercept a Dornier Do 217, their Beaufighter opened fire and sent the enemy bomber diving vertically into the sea off Folkestone. After refuelling, the same crew got airborne again and soon intercepted another Do 217, which was sent down in flames near Westerham (Kent). Immediately, a further Do 217 was spotted and, despite the enemy bomber manoeuvring violently, a chase developed in which two bursts of fire hit the bomber causing a fire and the aircraft spinning away. At this time, Wg Cdr Wight-Boycott was feeling ill and found that in the excitement his oxygen supply had accidentally been turned off. Having soon recovered, he found a lone Ju 88 over Caterham (Surrey) and attacked; the

bomber caught fire and the crew of four bailed out. Within days Wg Cdr Wight-Boycott had practically become a national hero in the National Press. Having ended his command in such style, Wg Cdr Wight-Boycott handed over the reins of leadership to Wg Cdr C M Miller.

On 16 April 1943, intruder missions commenced over France when Plt Off Cronie and Plt Off Colebrook were patrolling the Pas de Calais and shot up a barge on the Seine. The same night a pair of Focke-Wulf Fw 190s landed at West Malling thinking they were home safely! High losses among conventional bombers had forced the Germans to employ fast single seat fighters in the night-bombing role, though their pre-occupation with navigation resulted in many being taken by surprise and destroyed by the much slower night fighters. In May 1943, de Havilland Mosquitos began to arrive and replace the Beaufighters, however, not before the Sqn achieved its 50th night kill.



Initially, the Mosquito XIIIs were fitted with the AI Mark VIII radar (the first centimetric scanner in service), a giant technological leap, and were not permitted to fly over enemy territory. This restriction was lifted in May 1944 and the Sqn's new Mosquito XIIIs (heavier and with greater range than the XII) were able to

patrol freely over Northern France, the Low Countries and Germany; attacking communication centres and enemy aircraft. In Feb 1945, the Sqn moved to Colern (Wilts) to convert to the Mosquito 30 and, when fully operational, took their aircraft to Manston (Kent), early in April. In one of the last operational sorties of the war, WO Dallinson shot down a Messerschmidt Me 262 jet fighter and damaged a second, in the Sqn's first encounter with the future generation of fighter aircraft. Few further operational sorties were flown before the end of the war and 29(F) Sqn returned, in October, to West Malling to form part of the post-war fighter defences.

The Camera Became My Passport Home

A copy of a new published 3-volume set book has been donated to St Clement Danes Church. The book is called “The Camera Became My Passport Home”: Stalag Luft 3, The Great Escape, The Forced March and the Liberation at Moosburg.

In the Second World War, Stalag Luft 3 was a German prisoner of war camp for Allied Air Force officers, and became known in history for two famous “tunnel” escapes, The Wooden Horse escape and The Great Escape. Both escapes are thoroughly documented in the book; including descriptions and drawings of the construction of the tunnels.



The main character in the book is American airman Charles Boyd Woehrle, a close friend of the author. Now, 97 years old, Charles still vividly remembers his experiences as if it had happened yesterday; proof of the impact the war had on these young souls.

Many subjects concerning Stalag Luft 3 are covered in the book and over 400 prisoners of war; from England, the USA and other countries are mentioned by name.

The book also deals with daily life at Stalag Luft 3: POW ingenuity (the ability to make literally everything out of nothing), POW artwork, religious services, sports activities and theatre activities. The book includes many individual first-hand accounts, like the story of Sigrid Moritz, one of the many German censor girls working at Stalag Luft

3. Charles Woehrle pops in and out of the story, connecting all the individual chapters.

The book is a 3-volume large format reference and coffee table book, hard-bound with blind-embossed covers. Charles's story and the history of Stalag Luft 3 are pieced together with other information about WW2 to provide the reader with a better overview of events that took place. Printed in full colour on glossy paper, 526 pages and over 500 images (photos, drawings and maps) reproduced on a size which do them justice; showing as much detail as possible.



- totally unbelievable, eh, chaps??

Although this book is intended as a historical record, cartoons have also been included, partly to brighten the presentation, but mainly because such a drawing can often give a very effective impression of a particular circumstance. Many drawings shown in this book were carried in preference to food during The Forced March when Stalag Luft 3 was evacuated in January 1945.

The first print run of 100 copies is almost sold out, but a second print run will be taken into consideration if there is

enough interest. Each copy is numbered, signed by the author and Charles Woehrle. The book comes with a personalized certificate.

Please contact Ben van Drogenbroek for further details on b_v_drogenbroek@hotmail.com

Update on the Bells of St Clement Danes

Alan Taylor

The bells of St Clement Danes and the bell ringing that has taken place there over the centuries have a long and distinguished history. Indeed, many groups of ringers still book practice time on our beautiful bells. In the reign of the last rector, William Pennington Bickford, as many as six societies of bell ringers counted SCD as their HQ. Indeed, one of the societies returns each year to hold two practices.

We now have plans to revive SCD's own band of bell ringers. This has come about because our new learners, pupils from SCD Primary School in Drury Lane, are expressing interest in actually belonging to a band of SCD ringers.

We have now been teaching pupils and some of their parents for a little over a year. The ringers are the first people to have learnt to ring at SCD since well before WW2. At first we were concerned at how such young children would take to ringing. Would their small size prove to be a hindrance? Well, I am pleased to report that their size hasn't proved to be much of an obstacle. And we are extremely pleased with their progress. Our present bunch left SCD School in the summer to join senior schools. Some of them will be able to continue coming to our Thursday afternoon practices, if their new schools are not too far away. Others we will introduce to other bell ringing bands nearer to their new schools.

So from the autumn term we are looking forward to a new group of learners who will be starting from scratch and continuing alongside those whose secondary schools are not too far away. We are also pleased to accept adult learners and if any readers of this article are interested in viewing bell ringing and even trying it for themselves, just contact me via the church.

Henry's Christening

Iza Seabrook

It is inevitable that you start off comparing your second child to the first born...only to very quickly realise they are two very different little beings. Still, we try and treat them the same in all the important ways. This included seeing Henry christened at our beautiful church.



It is incredibly moving having your little one being the centre of attention, especially when he is as happy and 'chilled out' as Henry.

Named after his Great Grandfather (who took the name 'Henry' while fighting for the Polish Resistance during WW2 – and it stuck with him afterwards), my hope is that the little one is as caring, funny and in possession of the wonderful 'green fingers' my Grandfather had growing ferns and palms. I'll be happy whatever he chooses to do...as long as he's happy doing it!

It was lovely seeing our families gathered again and by now, they know the way. If you get the chance, come inside and explore or come for a service and listen to our wonderful choir. You will not be disappointed!

Restoration of a Blenheim

Peter Neville Lewis MIRM



The Aircraft Restoration Company based at the Imperial War Museum Duxford is currently restoring a Bristol Blenheim bomber back to flight status.

This Blenheim G-BPIV crash-landed at Duxford aerodrome in 2003. The aircraft had originally been rebuilt to flight status over a five year restoration but its flying career was cut short when it crashed on landing due to fuel problems.

However, thanks to 11 years' patient work by a dedicated team at Duxford, the Blenheim is close to flying again. The exterior is almost finished, the engines are firing and apart from a number of minor details, some of which now have to be incorporated for a "modern" plane, this means that she will soon hopefully receive her CAA certification and be back in the air this year.



The current restoration is taking the Blenheim back to MK1 configuration. The MK1 has a snub-nosed look compared to the latter MKIV models which were designed to give the navigator/bomb aimer better all-round vision.

Why does this matter? The answer is that the Bristol Blenheim is unique, Britain's first stressed-skin monoplane with a defensive turret and retractable landing gear. When war was declared in 1939 Britain had 1089 Blenheim fighter/bombers on strength, by far the largest aircraft in numbers that we had. Now there is just the Duxford Blenheim in the UK to keep the memories alive of the plane

which carried out the first air attack of WW2 from Wattisham airfield in Suffolk in September 1939.

The prototype aircraft flew in 1935 as an airliner and was one of the fastest aircraft in Europe, with a top speed of 266mph which in 1935 was above average, powered by two Bristol Mercury XV Radial air-cooled engines. There was a crew of three, which consisted of the pilot, navigator and wireless operator/rear gunner. The RAF saw the potential of the Blenheim and ordered a military version for themselves.

The Bristol Blenheim saw service throughout the Battle of Britain in 1940. However its top speed was by now surpassed by the newer German single seat fighters such as the ME 109E and the Blenheim's defensive armament was poor compared to the cannon armed ME109s.

Although Winston Churchill described the feats of the Blenheim crews as "akin to the charge of the Light Brigade" too many Blenheims were being shot down and the attrition rate was becoming unacceptable. Blenheims were withdrawn from front line service in October 1941 and given night fighter and overseas roles where they had the distinction of being operational throughout WW2.

It is these achievements which have been the spur to ensure there is always a Blenheim in the skies as a tribute to the many brave "Blenheim Boys" who lost their lives in this sadly out-classed bomber.

A Tiger Moth Experience

SCD Friends' Life Member David Savage celebrated his 70th birthday in the summer with a flight at Duxford in a Classic Wings' De Havilland Tiger Moth: the bi-plane that was the RAF's primary trainer from the 1930s to the 1950s.

He also used the occasion as research into open-cockpit flying for "Paper Planes", a WW1 community musical which told the story of Hornchurch-based hero William Leefe Robinson VC, the first Royal Flying Corp pilot to down a German airship over British soil in 1916.



Wearing a flying helmet, goggles and a sheepskin jacket David took off into a bright blue sky from the Imperial War Museum's airfield where Spitfires were first flown by

19 Squadron in 1938. After a while his instructor allowed him to take control and he performed a sweep over Essex's Audley End House before heading back to Cambridgeshire.

"Six years ago my birthday treat – paid for by a couple of friends I have known since school days – was to fly from Southend over the Thames Estuary in a former RAF Transport Command Dakota which had taken part in the 1948-9 Berlin Airlift. That was very exciting - especially as there were veterans on board who told me their stories - but feeling the

wind in my face and taking control of a bi-plane with a bit of buffeting going on was just amazing.”

"An added bonus was that I got extra time in the air thanks to Carolyn Grace in her twin-seat trainer conversion Spitfire. The Control Tower wanted her to land before we did! I even have a DVD - a birthday present from my eldest daughter and her husband – to prove that my flight really happened."

A month later, David, also a Life Member of the National Union of Journalists, was bursting into the auditorium at the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, waving a period "Daily Mirror" and shouting, "Read All About It!" in his role as Charlie, an East End newspaper seller.

"I had not done any 'am-dram' for 25 years," said David, "but, again, this proved to be an unforgettable experience involving a 60-strong cast whose ages ranged from seven to 80. We did five performances which received standing audience ovations and critical acclaim from local newspapers. Several theatre-goers told me it was West End standard. I dedicated my role to my late Dad, Cpl John Savage who in 1940, was at Hornchurch with 41 Squadron at the start of his WW2 RAF service."

At the time of printing, David, a City of London Guide-Lecturer, was due to give a talk on Leefe Robinson, who died of the Spanish flu in 1918, during a WW1 commemorative evening arranged for tour guide colleagues at The Guildhall.

Proposal for November 2014 AGM

Your Executive Committee has, as directed by the AGM in 2006, reviewed on a two-yearly rolling basis the subscription rates. We commenced our review early in 2014 (for implementation on 1 July 2015) and make the following recommendation for ratification to the 2014 AGM:

We propose that you agree to increase subscriptions (from 1 July 2015) to £22pa single and £33pa joint, provided both are paid by Direct Debit. At the AGM in 2012 it was decided no longer to accept Cheques or Standing Orders for annual membership and, because of the postage costs and extra work involved, it was agreed to add an additional £3 to the annual cost of renewals by cheque. We further propose that the £3 additional charge applies to those who wish to continue with Cheque and Standing Order Payments.

We propose no change to the age qualification of 65yrs as agreed for entry to life membership in the 2012 AGM.

We propose no change to the Life membership rates which were set at 18 times the annual rate at the 2012 AGM - that is to say £396 single and £594 joint at the above agreed rates.

Application to become a Friend of St Clement Danes

Please tear out this page, complete in block capitals and return to:
The Friends of St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH

Current Categories/Charges to join the Friends are:

Life Membership for those over the age of 65 years: £360 single & £480 double.

Normal Membership by Direct Debit: £20pa single & £30pa joint membership.

Corporate Rates from £100pa; please contact the Membership Secretary at the church.

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 life member** and enclose a cheque*
- ☐ **We wish to join as joint life members** and enclose a cheque*
Please provide your date of birth(s) below

**Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of St Clement Danes*

- ☐ **I wish to join as a single member** and authorise a debit of £20pa**
- ☐ **We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a debit of £30pa**

*** From my account until further notice; I enclose a completed Direct Debit instruction (page 36)*

- ☐ I enclose a completed **Gift Aid Declaration** (overleaf)

Name and Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Signature.....Date.....

Date of Birth for life membership:

1.....2.....

Gift Aid Certificate

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 2001 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 (28p on every £1 for donations up to 5 April 2008).

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

Signature.....Date.....

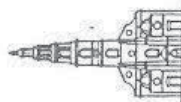


Our mission is to encourage growth in the membership of the Friends of St Clement Danes through promotion of what St Clement Danes provides spiritually, socially and culturally.

Central Church of the Royal Air Force
Strand, London, WC2R 1DH
www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdaneshome



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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)

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

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4. Bank/Building Society
account number

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5. Reference Number
(Hon Treasurer to complete)

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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.