

Oranges & Lemons



The Friends of St Clement Danes

Issue No. 47
Spring 2019

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Registered Charity No. 1048757

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HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

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O&L Bulletin

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The Friends of St Clement Danes

Bulletin
No. 47
Spring 2019

 **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 current issue of Oranges & Lemons. Last year was remarkable in its celebrations. Let us all pray for the events we face this year.

I hope you find time to visit us soon. Please do share this magazine with Friends and Family. 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**
- **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 MA FCIS CMgr FCMI RAF



I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of Oranges & Lemons.

We are normally told to look forward but you will notice that we do report on the most magnificent concert held last November at St Clement Danes, where I was delighted to host our Patron-In-Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester (page 5).

HRH enjoyed being with us at our annual concert and also meeting so many of you who attended the event in support of our work.

I thank you all for that support as well as the St Clement Danes Lodge of the Freemasons for their generous donation, which was presented on the night.

Of course, these events do not just magically happen but take a lot of hard work and I wish to thank the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Director of Music St Clement Danes and our choir for their wonderful programme.

Finally, I thank the Board of Trustees, especially Wg Cdr Mick Meyer, who pulled the many elements together, making it one of the most memorable to date.



Looking back, 2018 also saw The Friends involvement in the RAF Annual Formation Day Service, the 10 July RAF Centenary celebrations and at the Centenary Service for the formation of the Polish Air Force.

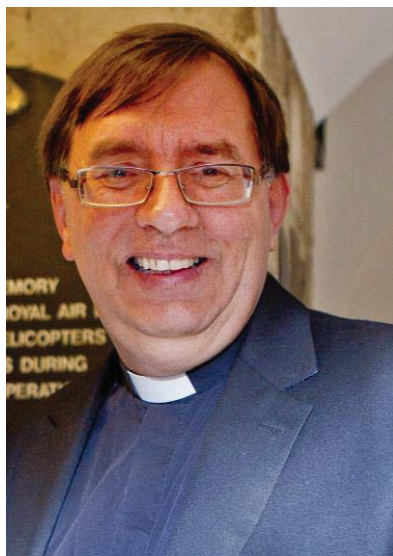
We have proudly supported these events and continued our daily work supporting the physical and spiritual elements of the Central Church.

Our clergy were especially happy as they paraded in new vestments at some of the services, courtesy of The Friends!

I thank you for your support over the course of last year and for your ongoing support as we look forward and continue our work.

From the Resident Chaplain

The Rev'd David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF



Welcome to the Spring issue of Oranges and Lemons and thank you for your continuing support to St Clement Danes Church.

Although we look forward to our Holy Week and Easter celebrations we can't resist a quick look back at 2018 which was a momentous year for the RAF and for us here. So you will find in the magazine a short resume of the church events of last year.

As we move into 2019 we do so with hope and optimism which befits a Christian church at this time of the year and I do hope that the vagaries of the winter will now be over and that you are all ready for the spring and summer. Please, if you are in town, find the time to pop in and see us, you'll be most welcome.

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.

Some of the Services Held During 2018

619 Sqn and Ex-POW Association Kneelers Blessed
Oranges & Lemons Service attended by Lord Mayor of Westminster
100th Anniversary Service of the RAF on Easter Day
St George's Changi Association 60th Anniversary Service
Choral Eucharist & Reception into Community of the Cross of Nails
100th Anniversary Service of the RAF Club
100th Anniversary Service for PMRAFNS
75 Years of the Mountain Rescue Service
Czech Tapestry Dedication
RAF 100th Celebration Service
SCD Primary School Leavers Service
SCD Senior School Founders Service
Sandakan Memorial Service
Polish Air Force Service of Remembrance
Battle of Britain Commemoration
Blessing of WAAF / WRAF / RAF (W) Flag
Annual Thanksgiving for those who died while in service in RAF
Dutch Squadrons Remembrance Service
Remembrance Sunday Service 100th Anniversary of the Armistice
100th Anniversary of RAF Chaplains' Branch
Memorial Services for: ACM Sir Peter Squire, Elizabeth Burley, Wg
Cdr Tom Neil and Professor Alistair Bellingham
Floor Plaque Dedications for: Queen's Colour Squadron, 367
Signals Unit, 28 Squadron, 164 Sqn Argentine – British

And of course all our weddings, baptisms, funerals, Sunday and mid-week services, concerts, Christmas services and other events: Lord Mayor's Show, High Sheriff's Reception and Courtauld Graduation (among others); not forgetting the Friends' Annual Concert at the end of November.

Easter Lilies

As you may be aware it is our custom at St Clement Danes to decorate the church at Easter with lilies. Traditionally, these flowers are given in memory of loved ones who have died; and their names are recorded and remembered in church.

I am writing to invite you, should you so wish, to make a donation towards the cost of the Easter Lilies.

If you would like to do so, please send your donation in an envelope to:

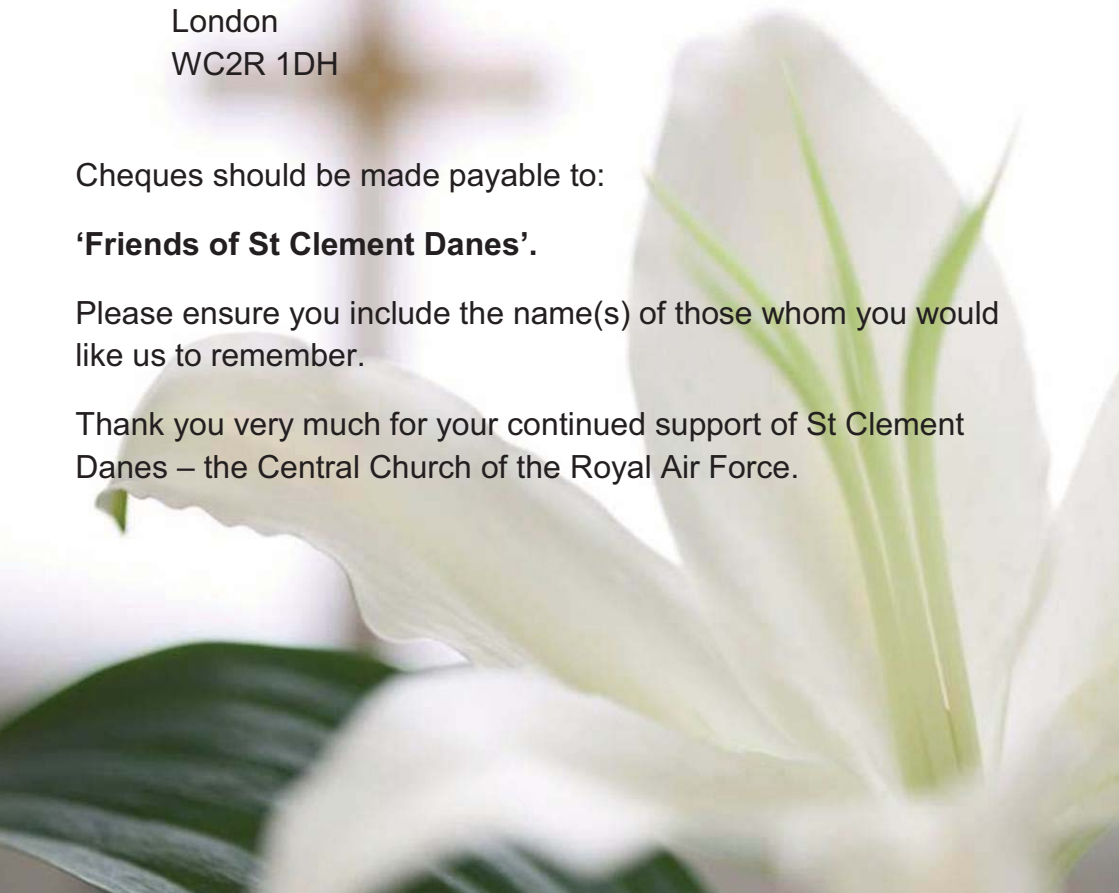
The Resident Chaplain (Easter Lilies)
St Clement Danes Church
Strand
London
WC2R 1DH

Cheques should be made payable to:

‘Friends of St Clement Danes’.

Please ensure you include the name(s) of those whom you would like us to remember.

Thank you very much for your continued support of St Clement Danes – the Central Church of the Royal Air Force.



COVER STORY: 'RAF 100' Celebrated at Historic WWII GCI Radar Station

John & Jane Dixon

When John & Jane Dixon moved into Ripperston Farm in 1998, little did they know that in November 2018, they would be celebrating RAF 100, with retired and serving RAF officers, Air Cadets and distinguished historians, in the dilapidated WWII buildings that formed part of their new home.

The buildings, a former WWII Ground Control Intercept Radar Station, have now been transformed. Over the last 15 years, John & Jane have

carried out an extensive repair and maintenance programme in order to save these historic buildings; the history surrounding them has been thoughtfully researched and the station is now accessible to the public.



The approach to the Radar Station in 1998 and now.

John stated, *"We realise we are in a unique situation because the station forms a substantial part of our home. However, RAF Ripperston played a very important role in WWII and we want it to be accessible to the public. Recently, we have been giving guided tours with a presentation on the Radar system and history of Ripperston. I am amazed at the diversity of the visitors we have and I am thoroughly enjoying sharing Ripperston's history with them"*.

In 1941 the Luftwaffe switched from daylight raids to night bombings, which resulted in the Blitz. In order to counter these night raids a new generation of Radar was developed and adapted for the Dowding Radar Defence System.

To intercept enemy aircraft a requirement was identified for radar operators to control RAF night fighter aircraft. The Air Ministry's



How RAF Ripperston would have looked like in 1944.

design criteria was such that the new stations would be introduced in three phases: mobile, intermediate and then "final" phase, the resulting station being a substantial brick and steel complex. RAF Ripperston became operational as a mobile GCI Radar Station in

July 1941 and on the 27 September Squadron Leader H M Allen assumed command.

By the end of 1942 Ripperston had developed into a "final" design static radar station with radar transmitters having a range of up to 90

miles. The station compliment was increased to 243 (89 RAF and 154 WAAFs).

Operating a 'three watch' system, RAF Ripperston was under the direct operational control of the Sector Station RAF Fairwood Common, near Swansea. Ripperston's task was to detect and plot enemy aircraft approaching the coasts of South West Wales.

Ripperston would then communicate the information to RAF Fairwood Common via 10 Group Fighter Command at Rudloe Manor. Ripperston then vectored intercepting night fighters on to the intruding enemy aircraft.

The first operational success came on the 21 March 1942 at 15:14 hours under the control of Squadron Leader Allen. Two aircraft were scrambled to intercept a Ju 88; five bursts were fired and the raider crashed into the Irish Sea. However, Ripperston's greatest operational success came on the night 16/17 February 1943 when four hostile Dornier Do 217s were intercepted and shot down. They were on target to bomb Fairwood Common and Swansea.

Ripperston remained fully operational until 1946, continuing in "Standby at a State of Readiness" until 1958. The buildings were then returned to the farmer – the former Administration Wing housing over 200 pigs.

Half a century of neglect had taken its toll.

Throughout the repair and maintenance programme, both John & Jane have focused on an outcome that would be sympathetic to the history of these wonderful buildings.



The main corridor shows the extent of the restoration and dedication given to content and décor.



However, the Set House, seen left as in 1998, is now restored and proudly displays a fine collection of art; wonderful aviation art by members of GAvA along with paintings, etchings, photographs, sculptures and ceramics, created by emerging West Wales Artists.

Furthermore, a number of prestigious visitors have stayed overnight at Ripperston in the restored Administration Wing.

One such visitor, from the USA, saw the Set House website whilst 'browsing' and contacted the Dixons requesting a visit.



The visitor was Betsy Belblois, the daughter of 2LT Deblois, from the US Army Signal Corps, a serving officer attached to Ripperston in 1942 for operational and technical training in GCI.

Visitors take their tea in the 'Officers' Mess'.

During her stay, Betsy shared wonderful recordings, made by her father, of his secondment to Ripperston.

"The support we have had in developing the history of RAF Ripperston, along with the many artefacts that have been donated to us in order to help us recreate the original 1940s atmosphere, has been incredible".



The CO's restored Rest Room.



The Set House, formerly the Standby Generator Building.

If you would like to read more about RAF Ripperston, or wish to make a visit to the former GCI Radar Station, you can contact John & Jane through their website: www.sethousearts.com

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

Clementine Iris Boning (23 September)
James Mason Niven and Rose Harper Niven (7 October)
Oliver James Downey (4 November)
Isabella Grace Winter Downey (4 November)
Otilie Antonia Lily Profumo (16 December)
Angus Edward Fitzgerald Duke (16 December)

Weddings

Frederic G De Dibon Richardson & Harriet J McCann (13 October)
Adam H King-Adams & Georgia O Dunk (17 November)
Stephen A Allott & Caroline L Curtis-Dolby (24 November)

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

Church Diary

All services at 11:00 unless stated otherwise

03 Mar	Choral Eucharist and Baptism
06 Mar	Ash Wednesday service at 12:30 (said)
10 Mar	Choral Matins
17 Mar	Choral Eucharist
24 Mar	Choral Matins
31 Mar	Choral Eucharist and Baptism - Mothering Sunday
7 April	Formation Service (ticketed entry only)
14 Apr	Palm Sunday Service (we welcome the congregation of St Mary Le Strand)
19 Apr	Good Friday Liturgy
21 Apr	Choral Eucharist for Easter Day
28 Apr	Choral Matins
05 May	Choral Eucharist and Baptism
12 May	Choral Matins
19 May	Choral Eucharist: RAF Club Service (tbc)
26 May	Choral Matins
02 Jun	Choral Eucharist and Baptism
09 Jun	Choral Matins: Pentecost
16 Jun	Choral Eucharist: Friends Service
23 Jun	Choral Matins
30 Jun	Choral Eucharist
07 Jul	Choral Eucharist and Baptism
14 Jul	Choral Matins
21 Jul	Choral Eucharist
28 Jul	Choral Matins
04 Aug	Choral Eucharist
11 Aug	Choral Matins
18 Aug	Choral Eucharist and Baptism
25 Aug	Choral Matins
01 Sep	Choral Eucharist and Baptism
08 Sep	Choral Matins
15 Sep	Battle of Britain Service
22 Sep	Choral Matins: Harvest Thanksgiving
29 Sep	Choral Eucharist

RAF 100th Anniversary Service of Remembrance, 10 July 2019

Peter Neville Lewis, Trustee



The 10 July will be a day etched on many peoples' memories. For who, if they witnessed it, will ever forget the proud and poignant flypast of 100 iconic RAF planes down The Mall and over Buckingham Palace? I'm sure the Queen loved every moment viewing it from her balcony.

This splendid occasion, with thousands of spectators thronging the famous approach to the Palace, was preceded by two very special services of remembrance: one at Westminster Abbey and the other at the Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes.

Our service was admirably led by Resident Chaplain, Padre David Osborn, who read a short and simple extract from the wartime diary

of Roland Beaumont, after the choir had sung Bob Chilcott's Gloria from his Little Jazz Mass – a delightful modern take on this traditional part of the liturgy.

A reading followed from Ephesians, chapter 6, by Group Captain Mark Heffron, Chair of the Friends of SCD and Trustee of the church: “....*take the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one...*”

Then it was the turn of our wonderful choir to sing the Anthem, *Christ Arisen Heavenward Soaring*, which had been specially commissioned by the Friends and first given on 1 April 2018 as part of the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Prayers followed for all those who had given their lives whilst serving with the RAF, for all who support the RAF family, for our Sovereign and for the peace of the world. Another beautiful choral piece was then sung to the famous words of John Magee's poem: High Flight.

This dignified service came towards its end with the RAF 100 Collect, National Anthem and a last rousing hymn, *Thy Hand, O God, Has guided thy flocks from age to age*, followed by the final Blessing from the Chaplain and a short sung Gaelic Blessing.

As the congregation filed out the stirring theme of the RAF March Past thundered from the organ and outside the famous bells pealed merrily under the direction of Tower Captain, Alan Taylor.

For those who attended it was a heart-warming occasion and the fine order of service booklet, with photographic illustrations of many aspect of the RAF's work, will help to keep the memories fresh for many years and hopefully for future generations.

A sermon preached in St Clement Danes Church on Remembrance Day 2018

Padre David Osborn



So, looking back to 1918, what do the following people have in common?

Donald Trump's grandfather (German), Charles Parry (composer, English), Gustav Klimt (artist Austrian), the New Zealand politician Alfred Hindmarsh, Harold Lockwood (silent movie star, American) and William Leefe Robinson the first person to receive the Victoria Cross in action in the UK? As a clue I can tell you a bit about William Leefe Robinson. Born in India, educated in Bangalore and then the Dragon School in Oxford, he found himself after a few adventures in the Royal Flying Corps.

One night in 1916, whilst on patrol, he spots a German airship and after two hours, yes two hours, successfully brings it down in a field near the village of Cuffley in Hertfordshire. Thousands of Londoners watch the battle and according to the papers, apparently rejoice with dancing, singing of the national anthem and one person who plays the bagpipes ... to be fair they had already been bombed by airships several times. Two days later Robinson was awarded the VC and it was presented to him at Windsor Castle by the King with many thousands of people lining the route from the station to the castle to catch a glimpse of this extraordinary aviator.

Apart from his VC, Robinson's reward was a cheque for £3,500, a silver cup and an order to be grounded, as he was too valuable to risk in combat. An order that was rescinded and quickly regretted when Robinson was shot down by the Red Baron over France and taken prisoner ... for him the war was over.

We all know the story of another young man who entered into a city with thousands cheering him on; we all know how well that turned out: five days later he's arrested, imprisoned and killed on a cross. His followers nowhere to be seen and all seemingly lost ... yet, we meet today, 100 years after the end of the First World War and 2000 years after the death of Jesus of Nazareth, to remember those who died in a great conflict and in a church that lives to remind us about that young man whose failure turns into triumph.

1,568 days: 10 million military personnel killed in action; 7 million civilians killed through action, starvation and illness. Four years that saw the Somme, Passchendaele, Vimy Ridge, the bitter fighting through the war at sea, three battles at Ypres and much, much more besides: and we can't spot a phalanx of uniformed Antipodeans in church today without thinking of Gallipoli.

100 years on ... where do we stand? History, they say, is just one thing after another and they are wrong, that's archaeology. History is one event after another and even then they are wrong, for history follows you. It steps behind you, sometimes closely, sometimes further back, sometimes on your coat tails, sometimes in the fields and hedgerows of your community. Occasionally history will overtake you and surprise you.

If we seek wisdom we should learn that history teaches us about the past, about the present and about the future. That it is, in some ways, an opening on the eternal nature of humanity, should we be bothered to look. Millions of people died in conflict so that we might have the right and some choice about how we view our past: to have the freedom to remember, to forget or not be bothered. People travelled thousands of miles to come and fight for King and country in the Great War and twenty years later against Nazi aggression; because they valued having choices in their lives, knowing that sometimes they will make the wrong choice, but nevertheless knowing that to be granted choice is to be granted life.

Look at this church, built and rebuilt several times over 1,200 years; a Christian building celebrating everything that is good about the life and fellowship of our Lord and of humanity coming to terms with eternity.

Yet, although burned down, or perhaps because it was burned down, by the Luftwaffe in 1941 it stands as a symbol of peace and reconciliation in a difficult and challenging world. Ultimately it stands for hope, because we all need hope in our lives – hopelessness destroys people, it destroys communities and it damages nations. By giving us choice, the people who fought in two world wars (and many other conflicts before and since), those people, like our Lord, gave us all hope.



William Leefe Robinson VC lived through terrible conditions in a POW camp and, despite being chronically weakened, survived the war and with much rejoicing returned to his family home for Christmas 1918. Heartbreakingly by New Year's Eve, he was dead. He, like the others I mentioned at the start of this address, died of Spanish flu in 1918.

William Leefe Robinson VC was without doubt a victim of the Great War, though officially he is not one of the war-dead commemorated at St Clement Danes in Book One among the 14,166 Royal Flying Corps pilots killed in WWI – a telling reminder that cut-off dates for suffering in wartime are pretty futile and that official figures can't cover all those who perished. They also can't begin to comprehend all those who suffered – during or since.

We must realise that those who died in that conflict follow us; that those who suffered stand mute at our crossroads and village greens, lie silently in our churchyards and cemeteries, or speak out their names quietly but persistently from our memorials.

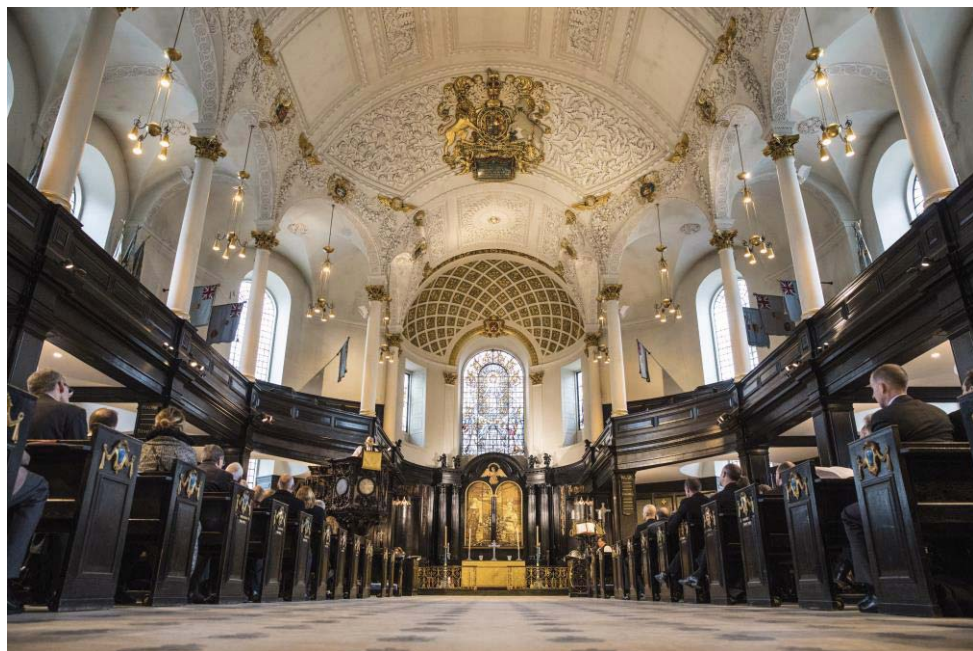
100 years is a long time and who knows where we'll be in 2118? Don't know, don't even guess, and don't pay attention to those who say they do know ... you will have learned that from history, of course.

What we all need is hope and today we remember the many millions who died that we might have hope in our lives – whatever the future holds. We remember one young man called Jesus, from the village

of Nazareth, who died for us all so that we might live in hope – for evermore.

I was going to stop there and you're probably thinking, 'I wish he would', because you might be hearing sounds of rejoicing and even a solitary bagpipe, but I must share this with you. On Friday morning my train into Kings Cross slowed down through Finsbury Park and pulled alongside a suburban train which had come in from Hertford North. The name on the side of that train ...? Captain William Leefe Robinson VC.

May he rest in peace. Amen.



Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of St Clement Danes, held in the Crypt Chapel

Thursday 29 November 2018

Present

Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Mr John Bayles
Wg Cdr (Retd) Di Bentley – Co-opted
Mr Chris Davies
Mr Raymond Harris
Wg Cdr (Retd) Chris 'CJ' Hill – Trustee
Mr Daniel Kettle – Trustee
Ms Francis Leigh
Mr James McKinley
Wg Cdr (Retd) Mick Meyer – Trustee
Mr Peter Neville-Lewis – Trustee
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAF VR(T) – Trustee
Mr C C K Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Em Rogers RAF – Treasurer
Mr David Savage
Ms Peta Walmisley
Mr E Robin G Youle
Mrs Jennifer M Youle

Apologies

Mr Michael Collas
Mrs Mary Holtby
Gp Capt Peter Holtby
Revd David Osborn RAF – Resident Chaplain (Co-opted)
Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Miss Fiona Youle

1. Prayer

The Chairman opened the AGM with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the AGM, highlighting the church's active involvement in celebrations for the centenary year of the RAF: Formation Service, RAF 100 Service, Polish Air Force 100 Service, etc. Additionally, the Friends had commissioned an Anthem, first performed at the Formation Service, which would again be performed at this evening's Friends Annual Concert.

The Friends have been active in making grants to the church this year, including plans for an altar frontal, new tunics and other items gratefully received by the church, all of which contribute to the pastoral work of St Clement Danes.

The close relationship between the Friends and RAF was further demonstrated by the fact that the photograph used for this year's Friends Christmas card had been taken by the Chief of Air Staff.

The Chairman thanked all those involved in the Friends for their contributions to our work and that of St Clement Danes during the year.

4. Election of Officers and Trustees

The Chairman thanked Trustees for their service over the past year. David Savage proposed and Raymond Harris seconded the election of the following Trustees for the coming year:

Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Wg Cdr (Retd) Chris Hill
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr Peter Neville-Lewis
Wg Cdr (Retd) Mick Meyer – Events Manager
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAF VR(T) – Cadet Liaison Officer
Mr Christopher Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Em Rogers RAF – Treasurer

Co-Opted

Wg Cdr (Retd) Di Bentley
Revd David Osborn RAF – Resident Chaplain

The resolution was passed unanimously on a show of hands. It was commented that two additional Trustees might be joining the Board during 2019.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM had been made available via the Spring 2018 edition of O&L magazine and the Chairman asked if there were any questions. There being none, the minutes were accepted unanimously on a show of hands, Wg Cdr Hill proposing and Robin Youle seconding.

6. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 June 2018 were distributed (Included in the Treasurers Financial Report, page 28).

The Treasurer detailed the various sources of cash inflows and outflows. On the receipts side, it was noted that £7,000 worth of donations were made to the Friends, including a generous legacy of £1,000. Last year's Friends Annual Concert was profitable, as in addition to ticket sales of £3,032, £239 of donations for refreshments were received. On the payments side, grants of £5,274 were made. Overall, Friends' funds increased by £5,025 during the year and stood at £66,178 on 30 June 2018.

Questions were asked as follows:

- Would life membership be curtailed? The Chairman explained that the decision had been made two years ago to stop Life Membership for new members.

The Chairman and Treasurer signed the Charity Commission Receipts and Payments documentation (CC16A) following the approval of the accounts, which was proposed by Peta Walmisley, seconded by Raymond Harris and passed unanimously on a show of hands. Due to the level of Friends Receipts (below £25,000), an independent examination of the accounts was not mandated by the Charity Commission and not recommended by the Trustees, given costs involved. It was unanimously resolved not to appoint an examiner, with Wg Cdr Hill proposing and Peta Walmisley seconding.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Treasurer (in his capacity as acting Membership Secretary) reported that membership numbers currently stand at 642. Seven members joined and 23 left during the year. Currently there are 253 members paying annual subscriptions – five corporate members and 248 others – 201 by direct debit; 32 by cheque; and 20 by standing order.

Questions were asked as follows:

- How is the recruitment of RAF personnel as members going? The Chairman explained that whereas a system of Friends Representatives was set up at RAF Stations a few years ago, this needed to be revitalised and would be an area of focus for the coming year.
- Is it possible to recruit more corporate members? The Treasurer explained that this is always looked at. The Polish Air Force Association were the latest corporate organisation to join as members.

At previous AGMs the membership had mandated the Trustees to review subscription fees biannually. This year the Trustees recommended raising the fees for individual membership from £25 to £26 and for couples from £38 to £40. Approval was proposed by Di Bentley, seconded by John Bayles and resolved unanimously.

8. Any Other Business

Wg Cdr Meyer was thanked for his hard work organising this evening's Annual Friends Concert, at which the Central Band of the Royal Air Force would feature, along with the Choir of SCD under our Director of Music, Simon Over. HRH the Duke of Gloucester (Patron-In-Chief) would be attending and Wg Cdr Hill will present a cheque from the St Clement Danes Freemasons Lodge, founded in 1837, in his capacity as Worshipful Master.

Mr and Mrs Youle informed the AGM that they had been keen to attend the 2018 RAF Formation Service on Easter Sunday, but were not made aware that the event was ticketed until arriving at the church on the day, at which point they were denied entry. In future, any event which is ticket entry only will be clearly identified as such in the appropriate edition of O&L.

Volunteers to act as Trustees of the Friends were asked to make themselves known to the Chairman or Secretary.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next AGM was set as Thursday 28 November 2019 at 4pm, with the concert to be held the same evening at 7pm.

It was also noted that the 2019 Friends Service – Holy Communion with refreshments after – would take place on Sunday 16 June 2019 at 11am.

C. C. K. Priebe
Secretary

Group Captain M. D. Heffron
Chairman

Financial Report for the AGM Accounting Year Ending 30 June 2018

The CC16A, which records the income and expenditure categories on which we report to the Charity Commission at the end of the year, is shown on the following pages. The figures are rounded up or down to the nearest whole pound in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and this rounding can induce errors of addition (usually of £1) within the accounts as displayed. Explanations of key areas are given in the paragraphs below.

Our total income was £21,174 (£23,634 last year) against a budgeted income of £15,000. Total donations for the year exceeded the £1,000 budget at £7,011 (£10,543 last year), including a £1,000 legacy bequest from the estate of a Friend who had sadly passed away. Sales from Christmas cards raised £100 (£136 last year) whilst sales from ties and other miscellaneous items held at the Church amounted to £1,072 (£903 last year); above the £750 total budget for both items. The concert raised £3,032 (£2,929 last year) from ticket sales and £239 from contributions towards refreshments (£416 last year, shown under the miscellaneous income category). Bank interest was £8 (£2 last year). Subscription income was lower than the £8,000 budgeted and amounted to £7,567

(£6,139 last year). We also received £1,040 from the main Church as Guild contributions from weddings held over the last three years as nothing had been previously paid due to an oversight by the main church accounting team. Finally, £1,105 (£1,170 last year) was received from the Easter Service to offset the cost of flowers.

Expenditure for the year was £16,149 (£13,002 last year), against a start of year budget of £15,000. Grants totalled £5,274 (£1,775 last year) against a budget of £3,000. These covered payments for an extra panic alarm for Church staff, enhancements to the CCTV system, purchase of a lightweight transit wheelchair, refreshments for the Cross of Nails Service, additional choir fees for the filming of the RAF Centenary Service and the cost of having the Centenary Anthem produced. Payment for the issues of the Oranges & Lemons, including printing costs, postage and editor fees were under the £5,600 budget at £5,080 (£5,023 last year). The Concert and Friends Service were well within the budget of £4,000 at £3,058 (£3,024 last year) and other costs for the Easter Service flowers amounted to £659 (£588 last year). A donation made in 2015 amounting to £1,500 had a specific condition stating that it should be spent to increase the music held by the church, and is treated as 'Restricted'. The balance of £662 was carried forward into this financial year to enable further purchases and £591 has been spent on replenishing sheet music stocks. The remaining balance of £71 has already been spent in the current financial year. Bank charges for the running of the BACS system for membership direct debits were £776 (£577 last year). Expenditure is completed by Trustee expenses of £712 compared to £577 last year.

At the end of the year we had a surplus income amounting to £5,025 and we ended the year with our Bank Accounts holding £66,178 (£61,153 last year).

In accordance with Charity Commission Regulations, as our income is below £25,000, we do not require an audit or Independent Examination. Your Trustees are content that the information presented herein is a true and accurate statement of the financial affairs of the Friends of St Clement Danes and therefore recommend that the financial statements be endorsed by the AGM without additional external scrutiny.

Therefore, if agreed by the members present, it is proposed to lodge the CC16A, as presented, with the Charity Commission.



Charity Name Friends of St Clement Danes Church	No (if any) 1048757
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period From	Period start date 01-Jul-17	To	Period end date 30-Jun-18
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	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	6,011	-	-	6,011	10,543
Legacy Bequests	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Christmas Card Sales	100	-	-	100	136
Ties and other Misc Sales	1,072	-	-	1,072	903
Concert Ticket Sales	3,032	-	-	3,032	2,929
Easter Service	1,105	-	-	1,105	1,170
Miscellaneous Income	239	-	-	239	1,812
Bank Interest	8	-	-	8	2
Guild Fees	1,040	-	-	1,040	-
Subscriptions	7,567	-	-	7,567	6,139
Sub total	21,174	-	-	21,174	23,634
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,174	-	-	21,174	23,634
A3 Payments					
Grants to Main Church	5,274	-	-	5,274	1,775
Guild Purchases	-	-	-	-	250
Friends Concert Payments	3,058	-	-	3,058	3,024
Easter Service	659	-	-	659	558
Sheet Music Purchases	-	591	-	591	449
Miscellaneous Payments	-	-	-	-	-
Oranges & Lemons	5,080	-	-	5,080	5,023
General Charitable Expenditure	-	-	-	-	784
Support Costs - Trustee Expenses	712	-	-	712	527
Support Costs - Printing & Stationery	-	-	-	-	36
Bank Charges	776	-	-	776	577
Sub total	15,558	591	-	16,149	13,002
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,558	591	-	16,149	13,002
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,615	- 591	-	5,025	10,632
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	60,491	662	-	61,153	50,521
Cash funds this year end	66,106	71	-	66,178	61,153

Categories

Details

Unrestricted
funds
to nearest £Restricted
funds
to nearest £Endowment
funds
to nearest £

B1 Cash funds

Deposit Account	13,937	71	-
Unity Trust Account	44,904		-
Current Account	7,266	-	-
Total cash funds	66,106	71	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

Unrestricted
funds
to nearest £Restricted
funds
to nearest £Endowment
funds
to nearest £

Details

B2 Other monetary assets

Nil	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details

B3 Investment assets

Nil		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Nil		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details

B5 Liabilities

Nil		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of
approval

Original Signed	M D Heffron	29-Nov-18
Original Signed	E Rogers	29-Nov-18

Membership Report

We started 2018 with 659 members and the current membership stands at 642 active members with a further member whose record is inactive but they are still paying their DD. In the calendar year to date we have gained 7 new members, whilst our numbers have reduced by 23 members (5 members notified as deceased, 17 cancellations and 1 Oranges & Lemons returned as “gone away”).

Membership statistics are: 387 Life members, 3 Honorary¹ members, 5 Corporate members and 248 Annual subscribers. Of the Annual subscribers, 1 membership record remains inactive (O&L magazine was returned ‘not at this address’ at the end of 2016, we have not had any further contact following letters sent via the individual’s Bank and their direct debit is still active). The record is included within the membership numbers for holistic record-keeping.

Of the 253 members (including Corporate members) paying annually, 201 pay by direct debit (including the 1 inactive record direct debit as noted above), 32 pay by cheque (including 4 overseas payers) and 20 pay by standing order. The breakdown of current membership in the various categories is as follows:

Life Membership:	387 (Joint 92 , Single 295)
Honorary Membership:	3
Corporate Membership:	5 (Cash/Chq 2, DD 3)
Annual Subscribers:	247 (Joint – Cash/Chq 5, DD 61, SO 7, Overseas 1; Single – Cash/Chq 21, DD 136, SO 13, Overseas 3)
Inactive Records:	1

¹ Honorary members are HRH the Duke of Gloucester, Flt Lt Perring (who is our Cadet Liaison Trustee) and Mrs Dockerill (wife of a founder member of the Friends).

100th Anniversary of the RAF Chaplains' Branch



The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, along with RAF Chaplains from stations across the United Kingdom, congregated at St Clement Danes Church in London to commemorate the centenary of the branch.

The 100th Anniversary Service was arranged by the Resident Chaplain, Padre David Osborn. All Chaplains not on operations or other essential duties were in attendance, as well as their friends and family and members of the RAF

Chaplains' Branch Association. Members of the public were also welcome to attend the service.

Following the service, Air Chief Marshal Hillier (pictured above) said:

"It is a privilege to be in St Clement Danes Church commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the RAF Chaplains' Branch. The whole RAF family joins with me in celebrating our Chaplains' spiritual leadership, moral and sometimes physical courage and outstanding support to our entire community in peace and conflict."

The Chaplain-in-Chief, the Venerable Air Vice-Marshal John Ellis (pictured below) added:



"It is with great joy that I see you all here today as we gather together to commemorate and celebrate 100 years of Chaplaincy Service in the Royal Air Force – Service that has spread across times of great conflict and times of peace. And it is right for us to remember the support given by and the sacrifices made by our colleagues past and present and that which empowers them and us, faith."

The RAF Chaplains Branch recruits clergy from the Church of England (including

all Anglicans), Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland, Baptist, United Reformed, Methodist, Elim Pentecostal, Assemblies of God, Salvation Army, Presbyterian and Churches in Community International. They provide spiritual support, strength and guidance to service personnel and their families, acting as a valuable source of personal wellbeing and guidance in times of war and peace.

The St Clement Danes Charity Bell

Chris Hill



Freemasonry is an ancient and honourable organisation established throughout the world and its centre is the United Grand Lodge of England at Great Queen's Street, London. The building in Great Queen Street was erected after WWI by subscriptions from Masonic members and their Lodges. St Clement Danes Lodge is one of the Lodges that subscribed 1,000 guineas and became denoted as a 'Hall

Stone Lodge'. Formed in 1867 as a Parish Lodge by the Elders of the Church and the Parish, it flourished with many members of note being recognised by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge for their Charity work.



When the Wren Church of St Clement Danes was set ablaze by bombs on 10 May 1941 (some 70 years after the formation of The St Clement Danes Lodge No 1351) many of the pre-WWII church members were members of the St Clement Danes Lodge,

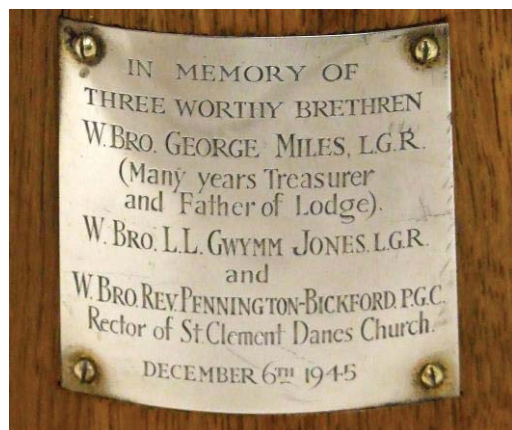
including the then Incumbent.



From the wreckage of the Wren Church a large piece of oak was recovered by an unnamed member of the St Clement Danes Lodge, who carved the Charity Bell to commemorate the lives of four members who had died during WWII. The Bell is now recognised as a significant Freemasons artefact.

We believe the bell was made or commissioned by F W Ingle Lowe (PAGDC =

Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, LGR = London Grand Rank and PGC = Provincial Grand Chaplain) all of which goes to demonstrate the link between the Parish Lodge and its Church.



Shortly after WWII an appeal was launched by the then Director of Public Relations (RAF) for funds to rebuild St Clement Danes true to its heritage, by subscriptions from the RAF, the Commonwealth Air Forces and by public donations: thus recreating the church as was – but as the Central Church of the RAF.

The church was completely restored under the supervision of Sam Lloyd. It was re-consecrated on 19 October 1958 to become the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. As part of the rebuilding, the following inscription was added under the restored Royal Coat of Arms which may be translated as: 'Christopher Wren built it 1672. The thunderbolts of aerial warfare destroyed it 1941. The Royal Air Force restored it 1958. It is now The Central Church of The Royal Air Force.'

It seems unfortunate with the untimely death of Rev Pennington-Bickford that St Clement Danes spent a decade out of action and during this time there seems to have been no tangible connection between the Parish Lodge and the Church.

Having been Membership Secretary of the Friends of St Clement Danes for many years, I became a Freemason more than a decade ago. I was in the Church one day and someone said to me, 'I think there used to be a freemasons lodge connected with the church' – another useful snippet filed away for future reference. About a week later and after a few 'Google' searches I discovered that there was indeed a St Clement Danes Lodge and found the Lodge Secretary's details. I emailed the Secretary and was invited to their next meeting.

Four years later I became Master of the Lodge and I used this Bell to collect Alms during my two years as Master of The Lodge. The total raised was £2,000 which I presented to the Friends of St Clement Danes at their Concert on 29 November 2018. Special permission was granted to remove the bell from Freemasons Hall, primarily to present the Charity Collections that were raised for the Church. The presentation of the donation was greeted with much appreciation and a glorious round of applause from those present.

I felt that I had contributed to rebuilding the ancient Parish Lodge to sustainable numbers and to restoring the connection between the Parish Lodge and the old Parish Church.





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 Direct Debit of £26pa**
- ☐ **We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a Direct Debit of £40pa**

*** From my account until further notice; I enclose a completed Direct Debit instruction (page 42)*

- ☐ 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 2013 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

9 4 2 2 6 7

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 righthand
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 type of account.



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/friends-of-st-clement-danes



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