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Oranges & Lemons



COVER STORY: The RAAF at 100

The Friends of St Clement Danes

**Issue No. 52
Autumn 2021**

The Friends of St Clement Danes

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The Friends of St Clement Danes

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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, as we slowly try and get back to pre-Covid routines and adapt to the changing world. I hope you are all keeping safe.

If you have articles or pictures you wish to see published, please email me:
iza.seabrook@gmail.com



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.

Chairman's Letter

Group Captain Mark D Heffron MA FCIS CMgr FCMI RAF



Welcome to the autumn edition of Oranges & Lemons. As hoped for in the last issue, it is good to see things slowly returning to normal, although one must question what 'normal' will look like in the future. That said, St Clement Danes has recommenced holding services and events, and I am delighted to confirm that our Annual Concert is set to take place on Thursday 25 November, starting at the usual time of 7pm. We will feature The Central Band of the Royal Air Force and

the St Clement Danes Church Choir. A programme to remember is being crafted by both Directors of Music. We will hold our AGM at 4pm on the same day, in the church Crypt. Do please come along to both events. It will be a pleasure to share with you the work of the Board of Trustees and go on to enjoy what will be a super evening at the Concert.

I am very grateful to all contributors to this edition of Oranges & Lemons and draw your attention to the article on the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force. Their history is fascinating and well worth a detailed read. We extend many Happy Returns to our friends and colleagues 'down under'. We have worked together throughout the century and are so similar in many ways. Together we stand.

Regarding the refurbishment of the church tower and spire, which the Friends fully support, I am delighted to announce that we have

seen a very positive first response and I will present a cheque for £14,000 to the Fund Chairman at the Concert in November. The appeal goes on and if you wish to donate, please do so to The Friends of St Clement Danes. We will ensure that the funds go to the main appeal, with an additional £50 for your donation added to it. Thank you and see you on the 25 November!

From the Resident Chaplain

The Reverend David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF



So there is good news and better news. The good news is that we are now open every day to the public and have been holding worship since Good Friday.

Why not join us on a Sunday morning for one of our lovely choral services?

The better news is that we have a full programme for the autumn and winter, including Christmas services – and we have lots of wonderful services and events already booked for 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been in touch to wish us well over the past 18 months; for those offering practical support and those offering their prayers for our ministry here. We really appreciate your kindness and understanding. From now on it's onwards and upwards or as we like to say here; *per ardua ad astra*.

Bits and Pieces

The day two Brides turned up at the same time.

Now, you need some context here; on the day this happened, the whole of the Aldwych road-system was being reconfigured and every road to the church was closed off. We had a wedding scheduled for 2pm and liaised closely with the contractors to allow vehicle access for the bride – although she did say that, if necessary, she would walk the last few yards.

At 2pm, great excitement spread, as a bridal party came into view; bride, bridesmaids, and 40 guests crossed the road through the barriers and came up to the curtilage and then realised they had come to the wrong church. As they departed ‘our’ bride arrived, much to everyone’s relief.

I am delighted to say that both brides had a great day and are now happily married.

The road system

As mentioned above, the road system has changed dramatically in the vicinity of the church – the aim is to have a pedestrianised area around St Mary Le Strand, a great enhancement to the area.

It does mean that if you wish to visit the church by taxi or Uber you will need to allow more time and suggest to the driver that they approach from the Fleet Street direction. The most obvious change is that traffic can now go both ways around the Aldwych – which looks a little odd (at the moment) but will become the norm very soon.

Church Diary

All Sunday services start at 11am unless stated otherwise.

03	Oct	Choral Eucharist with Baptisms
10	Oct	Choral Matins: WAAF Service
17	Oct	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
24	Oct	Choral Matins
31	Oct	Choral Matins
07	Nov	Choral Eucharist with Baptisms
14	Nov	Remembrance Sunday Service at 10:50am
21	Nov	Choral Eucharist – St Clement
28	Nov	Advent Carol Service
05	Dec	Choral Eucharist with Baptisms
12	Dec	Christmas Carol Service
19	Dec	Choral Matins
24	Dec	Midnight Mass at 11pm
25	Dec	Morning Prayer for Christmas Day

The church then closes from lunchtime on Christmas Day until the first working day of 2022.

09	Jan	Choral Matins
16	Jan	Choral Eucharist with Baptisms
23	Jan	Choral Matins
30	Jan	Choral Eucharist
06	Feb	ATC Service
13	Feb	Choral Matins
20	Feb	Choral Eucharist
27	Feb	Choral Matins
06	Mar	Choral Eucharist
13	Mar	Choral Matins
20	Mar	Choral Eucharist
27	Mar	Choral Matins for Mothering Sunday

News from the Parish Registers

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

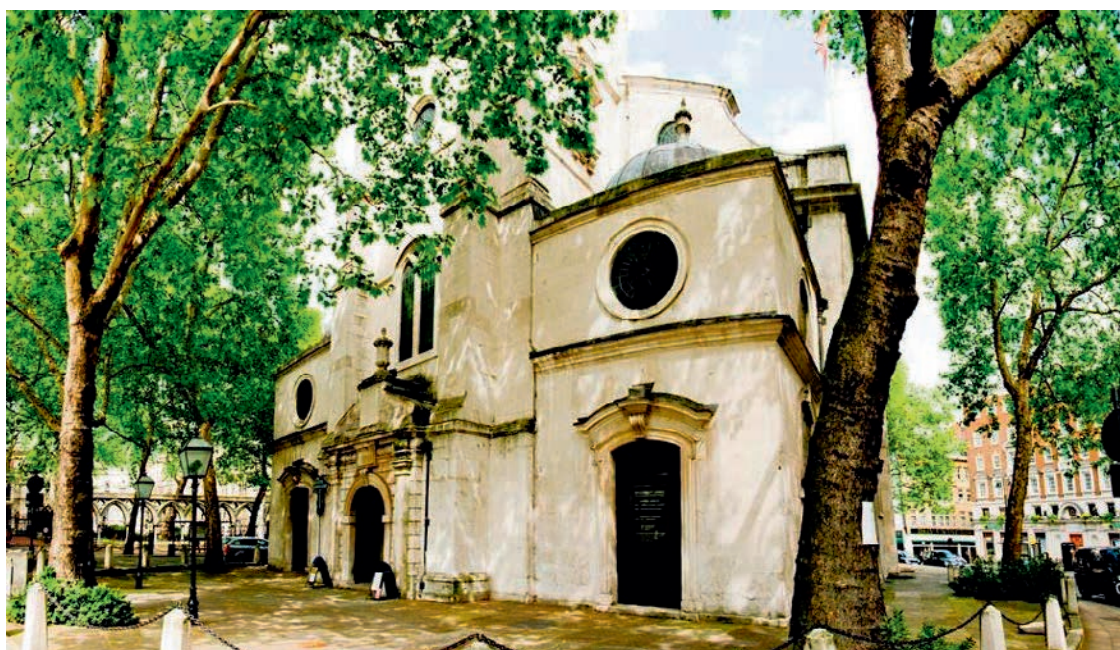
Baptisms

Rupert Crawford Dodimead (4 July)
Harriet Romilly Rose Thorley (1 August)
Penelope Zetta Lamb-Pearson (15 August)
Hugo John Edmund Freeman (27 August)

Weddings

Daniel Kerrigan and Gemma Emmitt (21 August)

Requests for Baptisms, Weddings and Marriage Blessings should be made to the Resident Chaplain.



COVER STORY: The Royal Australian Air Force at 100 Then • Now • Always

Squadron Leader Bruce Chalmers

On 31 March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force marked 100 years of service to Australia.

Centenary commemorations have honoured the 350,000 Australians who've worn the Royal Australian Air Force uniform, particularly the 11,191, who selflessly gave their lives in the cause of freedom and the hope of a better world.

The commemorations were marked around the world, as RAAF personnel supported the Australian Federal Government, and numerous State Governments' responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC, described the Centenary commemoration as an opportunity to reflect on past achievements, evaluate the present and look to what the future might bring.

"We are all the guardians of service and sacrifice established over the past 100 years, our task is now to build on that legacy and define the second century of Air Force together," AIRMSHL Hupfeld said.

The Centenary commemorations began on the 1 January when Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld struck the world's first coin of 2021 at the

Royal Australian Mint in Canberra. The Mint has dedicated its entrance display to the Royal Australian Air Force and has released two coin sets commemorating the Centenary. Annually the Mint conducts an event to strike the world's first coin of the year and gave the honour of the 2021 coin to the RAAF.

Her Majesty the Queen sent a message from Windsor Castle with her best wishes and congratulations which set the scene for the start of commemorations in Canberra, at bases across the nation, at Australian High Commissions and Embassies across the globe, and at the Australian Defence Force's main operating base in the Middle East.



On 31 March Her Majesty also attended the Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede in Surrey, to commemorate the RAAF Centenary. This being her first public appearance since Remembrance Day 2020, Her Majesty remembered our fallen aviators in company with the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency the Honourable George Brandis QC, and our UK Based RAAF personnel. The

ceremony was in addition to the Queen's Colour presentation held at Government House, Canberra that same day.

The Air Forces Memorial, Runnymede, commemorates the 20,456 allied Air Force aviators who gave their lives during World War II, but who have no known grave. The Queen's attendance was particularly poignant for our Centenary as it specifically remembered the 3,143 Australians with no known grave.

In Australia, Centenary commemorations started in Canberra with a Welcome ceremony. Soil collected from Traditional Owners at RAAF Bases around Australia and shells from the Torres Strait islands were placed by RAAF Indigenous Liaison Officers at 'For Our Country', which commemorates the service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders at the Australian War Memorial, with RAAF Indigenous Elder Uncle Harry Allie BEM watching on.



The annual Commemorative Service marking our anniversary was held at the RAAF Memorial on Anzac Parade, Canberra, providing

an opportunity to reflect on our past as we move into our second century.

On 30 & 31 March, RAAF personnel were commemorated in the daily Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. Poppies were laid against the names of every aviator, including the Australian Flying Corps, on the War Memorial's Wall of Remembrance, in recognition of their supreme sacrifice.

31 March dawned with the annual raising of the RAAF Ensign at Commonwealth Place in Canberra. For many years this ceremony, conducted by Officer Cadets of the Australian Defence Force Academy, was held at the Canadian Flag Pole, but following damage to the pole in recent storms, the ceremony was relocated.

The Warrant Officer of the Air Force, WOFF-AF Fiona Grasby OAM, conducted for the first time a second flag-raising ceremony at Blamey Square, outside Air Force Headquarters. The six flags flown daily at Blamey Square were raised by six enlisted ranks symbolising their important contribution to the Royal Australian Air Force.

There is no more important symbol for service people than the Queen's Colour, and Her Majesty's approval of the presentation of the third Queen's Colour for the Royal Australian Air Force saw it manufactured by Spear of Fame in Melbourne and presented for our Centenary.

The RAAF's original Colour, approved by His Majesty the King, King George VI, and bearing his cypher, was presented at Her Majesty's desire as the Queen's Colour in September 1952. Her Majesty presented the RAAF's second Colour in March 1986.

That Colour, like the original Colour, will be laid up at the recently refurbished Holy Trinity Chapel at our birthplace, RAAF Base Point Cook, Victoria.



The Queen's Colour Parade, telecast across the nation by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, was conducted under Covid-19 restrictions at Government House, Canberra. His Excellency, General, The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), presented the newly consecrated Colour to Colour Bearer Flying Officer Coomara Munro in the presence of the Chief of the Defence Force, Chiefs of Navy, Army and Air

Force, Minister for Veterans Affairs and Defence Personnel, RAAF members and importantly Air Force veteran, Mr John Cockburn who celebrated his 100th birthday on 31 March 2021.



Mr Cockburn served in the RAAF in World War II in the area north of Australia and is the only known living former member sharing our birthday. The Air Force 2021 Branch has recognised all living former members, who like Mr Cockburn, turn 100 during 2021. A special presentation, personally signed by the Chief and Warrant Officer of Air Force, has been presented to more than 80 men and women.

The Colour Parade was followed by the largest fly-past

of current and historic aircraft in decades. More than 60 aircraft allowed residents of Canberra and television viewers across Australia to observe the aircraft of the past and the 5th generation Air Force which serves them today.

On the evening of 31 March, a Centenary dinner was held in conjunction with the annual RAAF Proficiency and Leadership Awards at the National Convention Centre. The highlight of the evening was a special video message from His Royal Highness, Prince William Duke of Cambridge, himself an air force veteran following his service in the RAF.

Around Australia throughout the year commemorations have been held within Covid-19 limitations.

States Governors and Administrators have attended Centenary receptions and other activities throughout 2021. The South Australian Governor, His Excellency Hieu Van Le, attended activities on RAAF Base Edinburgh, Adelaide's National War

Memorial and at the Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall. Commemorations in South Australia took on a special significance as our founding father Sir Richard Williams KBE CB DSO was born at Moonta Mines, South Australia. In the Northern Territory, Administrator, Her Honour, the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO, attended activities at RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal. RAAF personnel serving overseas also marked the occasion with small ceremonies. In the Middle East a cake was baked and cut in the birthday tradition at Australia's main operating base, Camp Baird. Diplomatic posts commemorated the Centenary, including in Washington, Malaysia and Beijing.

The Centenary Year comes to an end on 31 March 2022 and more activities are still planned. In February 2022 the RAAF Band will perform a concert with especially composed tunes for the Centenary. At RAAF Point Cook, the Centenary Memorial currently under construction will be dedicated in March. This new Memorial will honour the service of all Air Force men and women since 1921.

Importantly, the Centenary commemoration was planned as a predominantly digital campaign. This has enabled all Australians and interested parties overseas to follow the Centenary program and broaden their understanding of how RAAF has supported Australia's national interests for a century. As the RAAF approaches the end of its Centenary year and enters its second century, it looks back at its history with great pride.

While we commemorate a century of service, we remember that Australian air power had its genesis in the Imperial Conference in London in 1909 when it was suggested the establishment of a military air wing would counter threats in Europe and the Pacific.

The Australian Government agreed with the concept of a military air wing and in 1914 the first test flights by military aircraft commenced.

The Australian Flying Corps (AFC) had been born. In November 1914 the AFC's first pilot to qualify was Richard Williams who would

go on to be regarded as the “father” of the Royal Australian Air Force.

The AFCs first war action was in Mesopotamia when the “Half-Flight” consisting of four officers and forty-one other ranks suffered terrible losses.

By 1916 the AFC had expanded to four frontline squadrons and another four squadrons formed a British based training wing the following year. A long association with the Royal Flying Corps/RAF had begun.

By 1918 AFC squadrons were equipped with some of the most technically advanced aircraft of the era and were some of the best performers of the war. At war’s end Australia had a new generation of seasoned flyers and a national air force-in-waiting.

The Australian Air Force came into being on 31 March 1921 and on 13 August that year the King bestowed the Royal prefix. The RAAF had become one of the earliest national air forces formed worldwide, closely following the RAF.

In the ensuing years technology, as it does today, drove extensive change. Monoplanes started replacing bi-planes, engines gained reliability and more horsepower. Aviation had become, in today’s language, a “disrupter”. Just eight years after he had become Australia’s first military pilot, Richard Williams became Australia’s first Chief of Air Staff.

When Australia declared war on Germany in 1939, the RAAF was a small force of twelve squadrons, aviators and 3,500 officers. By 1944, sixty-one squadrons and 182,000 aviators made up the RAAF. It served in every major Allied campaign in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, the Indian sub-continent, Asia and the Pacific, and for the first time, defended Australia on its own soil. Large numbers of aviators participated in the Empire Air Training Scheme and continued the association with the RAF.

By the war's end the RAAF was the world's fourth largest air force. Serving with distinction, it endured a loss of some 10,500 of its aviators.

The Battle of Britain raged from July to October 1940 and led Winston Churchill to deliver one of his most iconic phrases, *"Never in the field of human conflict, was so much owed by so many to so few"*.

Five Australian pilots who survived the Battle of Britain, flying with RAF squadrons, emerged as aces. Overall the Empire Air Training Scheme would provide about nine percent of all Allied pilots and aircrew who served under the RAF's wartime command in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Many of the 37,000 trained Australian personnel, found themselves serving in the RAF. Many were destined for the most dangerous role in the air, Bomber Command. Twenty per cent of all Australian combat losses of World War II occurred in Bomber Command.



Post-war, the RAAF was immediately engaged in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan and Cold War operations including the Berlin Airlift, as well as fighting in the Korean Conflict, the Malayan Emergency and Vietnam.

The introduction of the Meteor, Vampire, Sabre and Canberra heralded the arrival of the jet age; the supersonic era with the Mirage, F-111, F/A-18, and the information era with the F-35A and the E-7 Wedgetail followed.

The RAAF has developed into a modern, technologically advanced air-force. We have contributed to the preservation of security and

stability in South East Asia, by providing maritime surveillance patrols in the North Indian Ocean and South China Sea, to the International Coalition in the Middle East, as well as peacekeeping missions and support to the Australian community during times of national emergency.

We have responded to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the Asia-Pacific region including airlifting immediate logistics demands such as medical supplies, emergency shelter, clean water and power generation.

In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait invoking an international response under Operation Desert Storm, which saw a successful air war and led to one of the shortest ground wars in modern history. The RAAF began adopting the United States operational systems, an interoperability decision critical in later joining US-led coalitions in Afghanistan, Iraq and other global operations.

The push for improving Australia's interoperability with the United States reflected the post 9/11 reality that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) would likely be required to operate jointly with the US on expeditionary campaigns and peacekeeping operations. Such co-operation would be advanced by Australia's acquisition of high-end platforms including the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter. The RAAF was now fifth generation.

Australian Defence Force Peacekeeping operations have taken many forms and RAAF has been actively involved in peace operations for over 70 years.

The Australian Peacekeeping tradition continues today, with Australians currently serving in the UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), and the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Middle East and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The current day RAAF has evolved into a force in which people and machines operate together. From as early as 2000, as the digital

age took hold, the RAAF had actively discussed 'network-centric warfare' and the importance of integration, not only across the RAAF itself, but across the Australian Defence Force, and not only to face conventional physical threats but emerging cyber and electromagnetic threats to national security.

Like many modern air forces, the RAAF successfully exploited the growing volume and velocity of data as information and communication technologies rapidly advanced. Advanced fifth-generation capabilities have freed the RAAF's information and communications systems from their 'dependence on the core'. As such, it has been the all-important 'catalyst' to transforming the RAAF into a 'fifth-generation' fighting force.

Although 'fifth generation' refers to a step change, based on the evolution of jet fighters, the wider effect of the F-35A and other advanced aircraft will be to leverage 'advanced sensors, cloud and edge computing to support decentralised processing, and command and control in the contested warfighting environment' enabling the deployment of a *networked* force.

An organisation that was once defined by clear specialisations - aircrew, engineers, mechanics, logisticians and administrators - is now working within a complex, globalised environment.

This involves everything from managing large contracts, working with international partners and not only fixing and maintaining aircraft and supporting technology, but managing 'zeros and ones' in the virtual world.

In 2021, the role of the over 21,700 personnel, (around 4,500 of whom are reservists), in the Royal Australian Air Force, is not only

to secure and control the skies, but to deliver 'joint effects' across the domains of land, sea, air, cyber and in and from space.

Further still, protecting Australia's national interests includes emergency responses at home too, as the RAAF's role in helping fight devastating bushfires, floods and in managing the Covid-19 pandemic. Protecting our national interests also involves supporting allies and partners in activities.

The RAAF in late 2019 announced the recruitment of its first specialist cyber warfare workforce. The need for this new and dedicated capability reflected the recognition of cyberspace as a new domain of warfare.

The establishment of Space Division has RAAF looking to ensure the most effective use of satellite communications and other elements of the space domain, essential to providing an effective and linked modern force.



Unveiled in 2019 the Loyal Wingman, being developed by the Department of Defence and Boeing Australia, is the first dedicated military aircraft to be designed, built and manufactured in Australia in over

fifty years. Using artificial intelligence to act as a force multiplier, operating with high-end fighter aircraft like the F-35A and F/A-18F Super Hornet, the Loyal Wingman will also be able to protect "force enablers" such as the E-7A Wedgetail and KC-30A refueler.

The RAAF characteristics of innovation, imagination and a focus on doing what needs to be done for Australia will ensure that the RAAF continues to serve the nation and its interests.

Although air power is relatively young in comparison to other forms of military power, it has seen the fastest growth in inherent capabilities, from low-powered aircraft to air and space forces dominating the third dimension and through it, the entire spectrum of warfare.

We value our technological mastery, but we value even more the enduring professional mastery and dedication of our Air Force people. Our connection to the RAF remains as strong as ever. Indeed the connection that Australians have with St Clement Danes is very personal. Such is the reverence Australians hold in St Clement Danes that one aviator had his marriage blessed in the church during a posting to the UK.

“I know St Clement Danes Church quite well, having spent 3½ years working across the road at Australia House in the early to mid-noughties,” recalls Group Captain Ernie Walsh.

“I came to know the Reverend Chris Long, who was then the resident Chaplain at St Clement Danes, through meetings and functions at Australia House.

“When my wife and I visited Chris at St Clement Danes around the date of our 20th wedding anniversary, Chris blessed our marriage in the Crypt Chapel, so I have fond memories of the Church”.

Per Ardua Ad Astra.

Join us in our commemoration at www.airforce.gov.au/100

**Annual General Meeting of The Friends of SCD
Thursday 25 November 2021 at 4pm
The Crypt Chapel, SCD, Strand**

All members of the Friends are entitled to attend and vote. It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend.
Notice issued by Chris Priebe, Secretary.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Chairman's Opening Remarks
4. Election of Council Officers and Members
5. Minutes of 22 April 2021 AGM
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. Any Other Business
9. Date of next AGM

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

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

The Friends of St. Clement Danes Annual Concert

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force
and Choir of St. Clement Danes

Thursday 25 November, 7pm

St. Clement Danes Church,
The Strand, London



Ticket enquiries:

01285 713456

enquiries@rafcte.com



Or by post to:

Friends of St. Clement Danes Concert
Douglas Bader House, Horcott Hill,
Fairford Gloucestershire, GL7 4RB

The ticket donation price is £20. Pre-ordered tickets will be despatched in October. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the Church door on the night, price £22. Proof of Covid-19 double dose vaccination a priority.

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of St Clement Danes, held over Zoom

Thursday 22 April 2021

Present

Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Gp Capt Peter Bedford
Mr Artur Bildziuk
Wg Cdr Chris 'CJ' Hill – Trustee
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr James McKinley
Wg Cdr Mick Meyer – Trustee
Revd David Osborn RAF – Resident Chaplain and Co-opted Trustee
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFAC – Trustee
Mrs Gwynfa Podgorski
Mr C C K Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Em Rogers
Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull – Membership Secretary
Scott Williamson – Treasurer
Ms Sue Weaver
Mr E Robin G Youle
Mrs Jennifer M Youle

Apologies

Wg Cdr Di Bentley – Co-opted Trustee
Mr Michael Collas – Trustee
Mrs Elspeth Kerr
Mr Hugh Kerr
Mr Peter Neville-Lewis – Trustee

1. Prayer

The Resident Chaplain opened the AGM with prayers for: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; Coronavirus victims and Friends.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present to the AGM. He informed the meeting that it would be recorded.

Particular welcome was made to the President, Ven Canon Ray Pentland, and to Mr Artur Bildziuk, Chairman of the Polish Airmen's Association.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had completed and sent his annual report to the Friends' Patron in Chief, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, and Patron, Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston, informing them of the activities and accomplishments of the Friends during the past year. The Chairman also reported that since the last AGM, Mr Scott Williamson had kindly consented to be Treasurer of the Friends and Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull had kindly agreed to become Membership Secretary. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the valuable contributions both had already made.

The Chairman asked if any of those attending the AGM would be willing to become Trustees, or if they knew of others who might like to volunteer to be a Trustee. Volunteers to act as Trustees of the Friends were asked to make themselves known to the Chairman / Secretary.

The Chairman updated the meeting on the status of the large-scale building projects soon to start at the church, including tower repairs and crypt expansion, for which the main St Clement Danes Trust is responsible. Work is likely to commence in 2022. Fundraising for these is well under way. The Friends is actively supporting these efforts.

One item the AGM would be asked to approve at this meeting, on the

recommendation of Trustees, is a change to the way the reserve for potential repayment of life membership subscriptions is made. More later.

The Chairman was pleased to inform the AGM that, in spite of Covid-19 restrictions, much had been accomplished by the Friends during the past year, including the provision of the following grants to the church: a wheelchair ramp; piano wheels; acrylic screens for the choir; a new dishwasher; a special ladder; and refurbished kneelers. In addition, upgrades to the website had been made, as well as the regular publication of Oranges & Lemons magazine.

Because of the virus, last year's Annual Friends Concert had to be cancelled. However, it was hoped that the AGM and Concert could both take place in person this year – on Thursday 25 November 2021 – and Trustees were planning for that to happen. Details would be provided nearer the time. Finally, a review is being conducted into how to increase Friends membership levels.

4. Election of Officers and Trustees

The Chairman thanked Trustees for their service over the past year. Sqn Ldr Rogers proposed and Mr Youle seconded the election of the following Trustees for the coming year:

The Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Mr Michael Collas
Wg Cdr CJ Hill
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr Peter Neville-Lewis
Wg Cdr Mick Meyer – Events Manager
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFAC
Mr Chris Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull – Membership Secretary
Mr Scott Williamson – Treasurer

Co-Opted

Wg Cdr Di Bentley
Revd David Osborn RAF – Resident Chaplain

The resolution was passed unanimously on a show of hands.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM had been made available via the Spring 2020 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 Wg Cdr Meyer seconding.

6. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 June 2020 had been distributed via e-mail prior to the AGM (see page 32).

The Treasurer detailed the various sources of cash inflows and outflows. With £10,018 on the receipts side and £13,720 of expenditure, a deficit of £3,702 was reported for the year. As a result, a total cash balance of around £65,500 existed on the 30 June 2020.

The Treasurer explained that as receipts for the year were less than £25,000, a formal audit of the accounts was not required under Charity Commission rules.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Wg Cdr Hill, seconded by Mr D Kettle and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary thanked his predecessor, Sqn Ldr Emrys Rogers, for a smooth handover.

He reported that membership numbers currently stand at 605, down from 620 at the last AGM, which took place on 26 November 2019. The drop in numbers included life members and those paying annually via direct debit.

Once the Covid-19 crisis has passed, the Membership Secretary would look to increase corporate membership levels, as well as encourage younger persons to join.

The Trustees recommended keeping subscription fees at their current level for the time being. However, this will be reviewed at the next Trustees meeting and a small increase in fees may be recommended at the next AGM.

8. Any Other Business

The Treasurer explained the Trustees had reviewed the methodology for calculating the cash reserve set aside to cover reimbursements in the event that the Friends should cease to operate. From 2013 to date, the calculation assumed an 80 year life-span for members, with the reserve declining every year to zero at the point that milestone was achieved. Under that calculation methodology, around £40,000 would be held in reserve overall, roughly the equivalent of the balance held in the Friends' Unity Bank account. However, given that the one-off up-front life membership subscription, when it was available, was roughly the equivalent of 18 regular annual subscriptions and assuming Friends would feel they had received full value for their subscription after 18 years had passed and not expect a refund thereafter, if the reserve is calculated by amortising the life membership fee across 18 years for each individual life membership, the overall reserve for all life memberships would total around £12,000. In other words, around £32,000 of reserves would be freed up. The reserve would also decline to zero in about ten years from now.

The Trustees recommended that this new calculation methodology be adopted. Approval of the new reserve calculation methodology was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by the Membership Secretary and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Friends AGM – Thursday 25 November 2021 at 4pm in the Crypt Chapel.
Friends Annual Concert – Thursday 25 November 2021 at 7pm.

C C K Priebe
Secretary

Group Captain M D Heffron
Chairman

Financial Report for the AGM Accounting Year Ending 30 June 2020

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 pages 32 and 33. The figures are rounded up or down to the nearest whole pound in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. Explanations of key areas are given in the paragraphs below.

All of what happened during the year was affected by the imposition of lockdown in March. Activities effectively came to a standstill for the last three months of the year and this has impacted on the accounts.

Our total income was £10,018 (£19,333 last year).

Total donations for the year were only £135 (£6,455 last year).

Sales from Christmas cards, ties and other miscellaneous items held at the Church amounted to £1,427 (£1,454 last year).

The concert raised £2,477 (£3,203 last year) from ticket sales and contributions towards refreshments.

Bank interest was £21 (£25 last year).

Subscription income was lower than the previous year and amounted to £5,794 (£6,247 last year). We also received £165 (£364 last year) from the main Church as Guild contributions. Finally, due to the Covid-19 lockdown no monies were received from the Easter Service to offset the cost of flowers; although we have, since the end of the financial year received some donations from members in lieu of Easter flower contributions.

Expenditure for the year was £13,720 (£16,328 last year).

Grants paid to the Church totalled £2,183 (£1,500 last year).

Payment for the issues of the Oranges & Lemons, including printing costs, postage and editor fees were slightly lower at £5,429 (£5,485 last year).

The Concert was significantly lower than last year – more in line with the costs two years ago - at £2,475 (£4,967 last year).

Other costs for the Easter Service flowers amounted to £500 (£514 last year). As the Easter Services did not take place these costs were refunded later in the year – after the financial year end.

The Church has also spent £812 (last year £2,060) on various items.

Bank charges for the running of the BACS system for membership direct debits were £709 (£655 last year).

Expenditure is completed by Trustee expenses of £834 compared to £521 last year.

At the end of the year we had a deficit amounting to £3,702 and we ended the year with our Bank Accounts holding £65,481 (£69,182 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.

Membership Report

At the last AGM in April, we had 605 members and as of 1 September 2021 the membership stands at 573 active members with a further 1 record which is inactive but still paying their DD; this remains included within the membership numbers for holistic record keeping.

Membership statistics are:	Life Membership:	352
	Honorary Membership:	3
	Corporate Membership:	5
	Annual Subscribers:	214

Of the 219 members (including corporate members) paying annually, 177 pay by Direct Debit (including the one mentioned above) and 42 pay by cheque, standing order or cash.

NB. A recent audit of the membership has revealed some anomalies in the membership list which are under investigation. Accordingly, it is possible that the figures above do not reflect the actual membership.

Gift Aid

I recently wrote to all annual subscribers who did not “Gift Aid” their membership. I received a very good response, but there are a number of members who do not “Gift Aid”. I ask these members to consider this again. It is a simple procedure which increases your donation by 25%. All you need to do is complete the form in Oranges and Lemons and send it to me c/o the Church. (Note: if you are a higher rate tax payer you may be able to claim some additional tax back for yourself.)

Cash, Cheque or Standing Order Payers

On a similar theme, I wrote to all those that pay by Cash, Cheque or Standing Order and asked them to consider paying by DD so we can reduce the administrative burden and costs. We received a good response but again I ask those who did not, to reconsider whether they could pay by DD. The DD form is at the end of this Oranges and Lemons.

Membership Numbers

Our membership numbers are falling and it seems more difficult to get younger people to join organisations. However, once the world returns to some sort of normality, we will be out there again spreading the word and the membership applications. In the meantime, everyone can play their part and I ask that you promote the “Friends” whenever the opportunity arises with family, friends and colleagues. If you need an additional application form, just write to me via the church or send me an email at fscdmemsec@gmail.com



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

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period	Period start date	To	Period end date
From	01-Jul-19		30-Jun-20

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	135	-	-	135	6,455
Legacy Bequests	-	-	-	-	1,000
Christmas Card Sales	-	-	-	-	-
Ties and other Misc Sales	1,427	-	-	1,427	1,454
Concert Ticket Sales	2,477	-	-	2,477	3,203
Easter Service	-	-	-	-	585
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Interest	21	-	-	21	25
Guild Fees	165	-	-	165	364
Subscriptions	5,794	-	-	5,794	6,247
Sub total	10,018	-	-	10,018	19,333
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	10,018	-	-	10,018	19,333
A3 Payments					
Grants to Main Church	2,183	-	-	2,183	1,500
Guild Purchases	-	-	-	-	249
Friends Concert Payments	2,745	-	-	2,745	4,967
Easter Service	500	-	-	500	514
Sheet Music Purchases	472	-	-	472	242
Friends Service	-	-	-	-	75
Oranges & Lemons	5,429	-	-	5,429	5,485
General Charitable Expenditure	812	-	-	812	2,060
Support Costs - Trustee Expenses	834	-	-	834	521
Support Costs - Printing & Stationery	36	-	-	36	59
Bank Charges	709	-	-	709	655
Sub total	13,720	-	-	13,720	16,328
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,720	-	-	13,720	16,328
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,702	-	-	- 3,702	3,005
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	69,182	-	-	69,182	66,178
Cash funds this year end	65,481	-	-	65,481	69,182

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit Account	14,054	-	-
	Unity Trust Account	44,778	-	-
	Current Account	6,649	-	-
	Total cash funds	65,481	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Nil	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Nil		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Nil		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Nil		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		M D Heffron	22-Apr-21	
		C F S Williamson	22-Apr-21	

Wally's War – All Ham & Jam

Peter Kettle



Sergeant Walter Frederick
Howe 1917 - 2007

"To us is given the honour of striking a blow for freedom which will live in history," General Bernard Montgomery, Commander of Allied Land Forces, told his troops on the eve of D-Day, "and in the better days that lie ahead men will speak with pride of our doings. We have a great and righteous cause."

He was right, and three quarters of a century later we are still astounded by the scale of Operation Overlord – the invasion of Normandy on 6 June 1944 – which is the greatest amphibious assault in history. The statistics speak for themselves,

especially in our modern times when Britain's military has been cut to the bone.

No fewer than 6,800 vessels, 11,500 aircraft, 4,000 ten-ton landing craft and 156,000 men took part on D-Day alone, with over a million men landing in France by 1 July. In southern England the storage space for the supplies covered 57 million square feet, housing over 450,000 tons of ammunition.

However, this story is about just one ordinary man on an extraordinary night – Sergeant Walter Frederick Howe, affectionately known as Wally. In 1988 Wally Howe met my wife's mother after he moved into his retirement flat in Princes Risborough.

They were both getting on in years but hit it off immediately and soon became a couple enjoying their time together.

On a day visiting Bletchley Park, Wally and I entered a room showing in detail 'Operation Deadstick'. Wally's persona changed immediately as he studied the details. I asked him why it was of so much interest and after much pressing he told me the following story.

Wally worked in 'the stores' during the war. When he joined the army he was singled out as very capable and they sent him on a Clerk's Course after which he was promoted to Corporal. He worked in several depots around the UK and was quickly promoted to Sergeant. Wally was having a good and very safe war!

While serving in Bulford Camp he came to the attention of a Major Howard (Airborne Division) due to his prowess at cross-country running and they used to exchange a few friendly words together. On the morning of 5 June 1944, Wally was walking across the parade square when Major Howard called him over. "*Sergeant Howe, I'm afraid my radio operator has gone down sick and I believe you are a qualified radio operator?*", Wally confirmed he was and much to his surprise, and within the hour, he was transferred to RAF Station Tarrant Rushton. That night at 11pm (armed and dressed in the correct combat kit) he along with 149 members of the 6 Airborne Division and thirty Royal Engineers (5 to a platoon) were told to board six Horsa gliders – 30 men per plane.

Before climbing aboard, Major Howard the Officer in command of the mission, gave Wally a radio which, on landing, he was to strap on his back. "*May I ask where we're going sir?*" said Wally. "*Our three gliders are going to Caen Canal Bridge in France!*" said the Major, "*You will be one of the first Allied soldiers to stand on French soil and begin the liberation of France.*" With that, a very nervous Wally Howe climbed aboard the flimsy wooden plane with twenty-eight other men and their glider was towed over the channel by a

Halifax bomber where they were released to glide down to their target with two of the other gliders. The very idea of carrying out a night-time airborne landing of such a small force into the midst of the German army seemed to be little more than a suicide mission. However, Wally's glider landed safely in a field near the bridge at 16 minutes past midnight on 6 June.

The impact of the landing had stunned them but within a few seconds the men had fully regained their senses and became aware that all around them was quiet. The noise of the crash landing had not alerted the 50 German soldiers at the bridge, who were less than 100 yards from where the glider had come to rest. If it had, then the fate of the men might have been decided in seconds. Fortunately, the guards had disregarded the noise that they heard as that of debris falling from a damaged Allied bomber.



No.1 Platoon were quickly out of the glider and instinctively went about the tasks for which they had been training for months. Several men knocked out a nearby machine-gun

position whilst the majority of the platoon rushed over the bridge to capture the other side. Once across to the western side of the bridge, they still managed to take the rest of the German sentries by surprise before reinforcements could be summoned. The Royal Engineers checked the bridge for any explosive charges.

Wally ran onto the bridge with Major Howard. Unfortunately, when halfway over, under fire and in the dark with the heavy radio set on his back, Wally tripped and badly sprained his ankle. No 1 Platoon began their attack, as No 2 Platoon landed safely in the second glider and immediately moved up to help clear the enemy away from the eastern end of the bridge. No 3 Platoon was not as lucky because the abrupt halt to their landing had torn the fuselage from the glider and left a dozen men trapped in the wreckage – one died.

However, within five minutes the bridge was secured. One officer was killed and five men were wounded in the battle for the canal bridge. The bridge had to be secured and held until the rest of the 6th Airborne had parachuted in to relieve the captors; this was no easy task as the Germans tried on two occasions to take it back, even using a Panzer tank!

The Paratroops finally arrived at 3am to the relief of Major Howard. A brilliant feat had been accomplished, the bridge had been secured and the road-link was open – ready for the invading allied troops. A radio signal code-named Ham & Jam was sent by Wally to indicate their mission was successful!

When you consider that the gliders were released from their tug aircraft at 5,000 feet, in darkness, using only maps and stopwatches, it is understandable that it was described as ‘The finest piece of airmanship of the War’.

Wally was eventually flown back to England with the other wounded soldiers, and he was very embarrassed that his only action adventure had ended with a badly sprained ankle! Hence, he’d never told his story to anyone, even his family! He felt ashamed that he’d tripped and had to limp across the final yards of the bridge.

After Wally had died, my wife Margaret and I took our family to the museum on the site and stood on the old bridge to pay our silent

tribute to Wally and all those brave men that night that fought for our freedom. We read the following inscription:

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT BY THE
6TH. AIRBORNE ON THIS NIGHT, THE CANAL BRIDGE WAS GIVEN
THE TITLE "PEGASUS" BRIDGE
THE INSIGNIA OF THE BRITISH AIRBORNE.**

This coup de main lead by Major Howard on the 6 June was the only completely successful operation on D-Day. It fulfilled all its objectives which no other mission that day would do and for that alone it should be remembered. It's hard to speculate what impact it would have had on the invasion if the mission had failed but it would have allowed the German armour to cross and attack the invading forces on the flank - potentially breaking the beachheads and stopping the entire invasion.

Sergeant Walter Frederick Howe (plucked from the safety of his storeroom in the UK) was one of the first 30 men to set foot in France on 'D' Day behind enemy lines.

We feel very proud of men like Wally Howe who played a small but very important role in one of the key actions of the Second World War.

Heroes all - we salute you.

Who are the Friends?



The Friends were founded in 1976 by John Samuel Thomas then Resident Chaplain of St Clement Danes. John served in the RAF from 1941 to 1946 and then 1951 to 1976 achieving the rank of Group Captain and Assistant Chaplain in Chief, Air Ministry.

In 1996, under Air Commodore Felicity Peake's tenure of leading the Friends, the Friends achieved its charitable status.

We are a group of individuals who share a common goal in seeking to provide an important underpinning to the work and ministry of the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. We help to bring the church to life through our activities, including an annual concert featuring the choir of St Clement Danes and The Central Band of the RAF or The Band of the RAF Regiment. We have a Friends Service annually as well as the production of two editions of our magazine Oranges & Lemons.

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.

We consider the ongoing work of St Clement Danes vital and the need to keep the church resplendent. We must build on the successes of the past, continue to support the church and the wider Friends organisation, ensuring that we remain relevant and a force for good through the 21st century.

We welcome new members from all walks of life.

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 2015 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 types of account.



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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