



THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL



THE ANNUAL REPORT 2020



THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

Registered Charity no. 1072511
The Old Cathedral School
Cathedral Close, Truro, TR1 2FQ

PATRON

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*Father God your love surrounds us,
Cove and headland, sea and sand
Sing the praises of your beauty,
Show the hallmark of your hand.
Give us eyes to see your glory,
Ears attentive, hearts aflame,
Voices raised in nature's anthem
To the worship of your name.*

*God in Christ, your grace surrounds us,
Balm in sadness, hope in pain,
Costly love that seeks and finds us,
Bears us gently home again.
Grant to us, your pilgrim people,
Joy to serve and strength to lead,
Grace to share and live your message,
Gospel word and gospel deed.*

*Spirit God, your power surrounds us,
Power of tempest, wind and wave,
Source of sainthood, artist's vision,
Life that conquers sin and grave.
Pour your sevenfold gifts upon us
Minds to open, hearts to move.
Gather in the whole creation
To the banquet of your love.*

Hymn written by The Chaplain to the Scilly Isles
Rev'd Canon Perran Gay who was Truro Cathedral Precenter.

Thank you to Perran for giving permission when we requested
that this hymn should be included.

Perran sends his greetings to everyone.



A message from the President of the Friends Roger Bush Dean of Truro

2019 was in many respects a time of considerable change for the diocese, especially with the Episcopal College. In January, we welcomed the new bishop of Truro, Philip Mounstephen, but in a little over a year he is already one of the more senior members of his staff in terms of length of service! In March we interviewed for the new archdeacon of Cornwall (Paul Bryer, who took up his post in September); the bishop of St Germans became the new head of Ministry Division at Church House, also in September, and, early in 2020 the diocesan secretary, Esther Pollard, announced her resignation, due to take effect from the end of March. (Like a bad smell – don't quote me! – I have been a member of the bishop's staff since 2006 – they simply can't pension me off!)

All this indicates how rapidly things can change, and with it, of course, comes the unintended consequence of key people 'losing' the thread of the story of the diocese, and that can be quite sobering. Knowing the back story is something of huge significance when one considers the Church of England and its many centuries of involvement in the warp and weft of the country. This is not to say, of course, that we are prisoners of our history, but to be able to give a balanced overview of where we have come from and where we need to go gives us a very important perspective on things.

It is the same with cathedrals, of course. Whenever I look at old photos of deans inducting choristers or a big cathedral service, I wonder what became of those people but I am also reminded that, although I am the dean, I am a custodian of this wonderful place for the time I am asked to serve here. As, indeed, are we all. Again, this does not make us prisoners of history, but we must be careful not to think that the world starts and ends with me. Knowing our history, where we have come from, is terribly important for knowing where we want to go.

I am equally sure that the problems we face today would have found an echo many years in the past as well. Our finances remain a great challenge for us, and as this is being written, Chapter is overseeing a strategy to make us more financially sustainable and confident for years to come. This means taking some difficult decisions, but it also means being positive about the future. One could say that 'it was ever thus,' and what unites the past and present in our endeavours is the conviction that cathedral is so important in the lives of so many people that we cannot allow it to fail. So we will pursue everything we can to ensure the viability of the cathedral for many years to come.

You will not be surprised to learn that many other cathedrals are in similar positions; there is a group of us known as the 'smaller' cathedrals, although that is a little bit of a pejorative description, cathedrals that don't have huge resources and smallish visitor numbers. All of us are negotiating budget deficits and living from hand to mouth. The Church Commissioners are making life easier by making sustainability grants available; indeed, we have been successful with one, and also the National Heritage Lottery Fund has given us a resilience grant, again, to help us consolidate our abilities to meet the challenges facing us. So, all is not doom and gloom, but we would be silly if we did not recognise the challenges facing us.

What the cathedral presents to the world, of course, is a place of spiritual solace and outreach, welcoming all to come and experience something of the special atmosphere of the place; our musical and worshipping life (again) is of the highest standard (the service of welcome for Bishop Philip was both relaxed, formal and fun!), our events programme is going from strength to strength (as an example of this, we hosted, for the second year, the Cornwall Tourism Awards, which meant emptying the nave of chairs in order to put on a dinner for 300 people), and the run up to Christmas touches literally thousands of people for whom the cathedral provides a natural attraction at that particular time of the year (our Canon Chancellor was on duty in the cathedral on Christmas Eve afternoon, and he said he spent his time replenishing candles in the pricket stands because so many people came in to light one.)

And, once again, I must thank the Friends for all you do to support the cathedral in its mission and purpose. Without your involvement and support the cathedral will be much poorer. It is of great comfort to me that whatever burdens I may shoulder I do not do it alone, and you provide the support and fellowship that make me feel part of this wonderful community very much.

And despite the challenges, I remain upbeat. It is an enormous privilege to be the custodian of the cathedral at this time, and I hope and pray that my successor in thirty years' time (I feel pretty confident on saying that I won't be here then!) might be constrained to say something similar in her annual report.

Roger Bush, Dean
March 2020.

Special Notice

Towards the end of April, The Chapter of the Cathedral approached the Friends Council for help in covering some of the immediate general expenses of the Cathedral rather than specific capital projects. With the Cathedral doors closed, the normal Cathedral cash flow had obviously dried up. Having discussed all options our financial gurus could put forward, the lay members of the Council decided to gift £38,000 to the Chapter for use specifically to cover wages for staff leaving a balance on our account of £10,000, which is in line with our official Financial Policy. This balance it was felt would be enough to cover our known commitments till 1st January when members subscriptions would be received.

Mary Prior
Hon Secretary

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.*

*God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, there consolation
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Please refer to other prayers on the Cathedral website:
www.trurocathedral.org.uk

From the Director of Music

The most significant thing for the cathedral choir in 2019 was the release of a new CD of music by Dobrinka Tabakova. This CD came out of several years of preparation which began with securing Arts Council England funding back in 2015. It has been a very fruitful partnership indeed, and was a substantial way to mark the early days of our girl choristers. Dobrinka has been an excellent role model in the still male-dominated classical music industry and she provided beautiful new pieces for the girls' Nine Lessons and Carols in 2016 as well as for their first live BBC Radio 3 broadcast in March 2017. She was also the key person in setting up the BBC Concert



Orchestra visit to perform with us in May 2018, where the concert included the premiere of her new work, Kynance Cove. This CD marked the end of our project with Dobrinka and the culmination of all of the above and more.

The CD was released in June, with effusive reviews in the international classical press. The CD was made an Editor's Choice for the whole of 2019 by Gramophone, classical music's most prestigious journal; and I will reproduce just this line from the article in American Record Review, November 2019: "It is hard to imagine these works performed better.

The Truro Cathedral Choir is one of the best in the UK". I should say that this CD recording cost Chapter nothing (as is the case with virtually all of the 'extra' things the choir does beyond singing seven services per week during term time).

January saw the boys' annual 'Cushion Concert' and 'Be a Chorister for a Day' event. Also in the Spring term, the chorister parents held a successful Dine Opera event to raise money for the choir tour fund. The choir's Spring Concert was on 8th March and featured music for Lent including Allegri's Miserere.

After the intensity of our Holy Week and Easter services, we went into the summer term, and our June concert featured music from the past one hundred years, from Parry's 'I was glad' through to contemporary works.

We were sad to have to say farewell to Joseph Wicks in July, as he left after two years as Assistant Director of Music. As well as his organ playing and work with the choristers, we benefitted hugely from Joseph's incredible talent as a tenor and his passion for the music we perform. He has gone on to pursue a freelance career based in London singing at the highest level.

The boys and back row of the choir travelled to Slovakia and Austria from 10th to 15th July to sing concerts and services. After a rocky start due to Gatwick Airport suspending flights for a few hours, we had a truly wonderful tour which has strengthened relationships within the choir and given our choristers experiences they will remember for the rest of their lives. The tour was



delivered with zero cost to Chapter and I am grateful to the chorister parents for their herculean efforts at fundraising.

In September we welcomed five new girls, five new boys, five new choral scholars, a new organ scholar and a new Acting Assistant Director of Music. We are much indebted to Michael Butterfield for stepping into this last role to cover for one year until we make a permanent appointment.

In October, we had the honour of presenting a concert with the City of London Sinfonia which was recorded for broadcast a few weeks later on BBC Radio 3. The CLS is one of London's leading chamber orchestras and was wonderful to have had the chance to perform with them a second time, after our memorable concert with them three years ago. The main feature of the concert happened to be a work by Dobrinka Tabakova – a remarkable coincidence – and we performed from different locations around the cathedral, giving the audience the chance to roam.

December was its usual busy self, with exceptionally high numbers attending the Advent Carol Service by candlelight and both Festivals of Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as our Christmas concert and our concert in St Mawes Methodist Chapel.

In the midst of that end-of-year business, our Senior Lay Vicar, Marc Gregory, marked his 30th anniversary as a bass in the choir – quite an achievement! He has been a steady hand on the Lay Vicar rudder through much change during his three decades, and we joined with his wife Annabel (one of our Chorister Mentor team at Truro School) and daughter Katherine (one of our girl Head Choristers) in celebration and thanksgiving for his contribution to our community and its music.



It has been another busy year which has involved remarkable commitment and often sacrifice by the 18 boys, 19 girls, 74 parents, 12 Lay Vicars and Choral Scholars, three Choir Assistants and three organists / choirmasters whose primary role is to serve the liturgy as it attempts to signpost the meeting of heaven and earth that is at the heart of the Christmas message.

Organ recitals

Our extensive recital series on the Father Willis organ attracted fine organists from all over the UK and further afield, and impressive numbers in the audience, week after week between March and October.

St Mary's Singers

St Mary's Singers, our adult chamber choir, continued to flourish under the musical direction of my colleague Joseph Wicks until July; I stepped in in his absence to cover from September through to November, and Michael Butterfield took over in December.

Cornwall Youth Chamber Choir and Cornwall Junior Choir

Building on our substantial musical outreach work of the past fifteen years, we offered opportunities to young singers of various ages through Cornwall Junior Choir and Cornwall Youth Chamber Choir, working in partnership with Cornwall Music Service Trust.

Visiting Choirs

We welcomed visiting choirs at various times of year and I must acknowledge the tireless work of our Canon Precentor in ensuring the choirs all enjoyed their time with us.

Christopher Gray
Director of Music at Truro Cathedral

Truro Cathedral Shop

www.trurocathedral.org.uk
shop@trurocathedral.org.uk
telephone: 01872 275125

Friends of Truro Cathedral Fundraising Team Report

We have had another successful year of social and fundraising events and I would like, first of all, to thank my dedicated and hard working team for all their efforts. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Chapter House Restaurant Manager, Marilyn Trevelyan, and her team for producing the delicious refreshments at our fundraising events.



On 6 September Medical Maelstrom, three Cornish doctors, Michele Sharkey, Sam Freegard and Anthony Seddon, who are renowned throughout Cornwall for their unique genre of music, singing and comedy, entertained the Friends to a tincture of laughter and song. The event took place in the Old Cathedral School Assembly Hall and was a huge success and all present would like a repeat prescription!

Our final fundraising event of 2019, in November, ended with a talk given by Liam Shoesmith, Deputy Director of Truro City Parks and Gardens. His talk described the planning and presentation for Truro in Bloom. He illustrated how the parks, gardens and roadside areas were planted with an emphasis on colour. The selection of plants also encouraged pollinating insects into the city, which also increased the bird life. Schools and volunteer groups had also become involved in the proliferation of wildlife. The talk was preceded by a cream tea and the event was well supported.

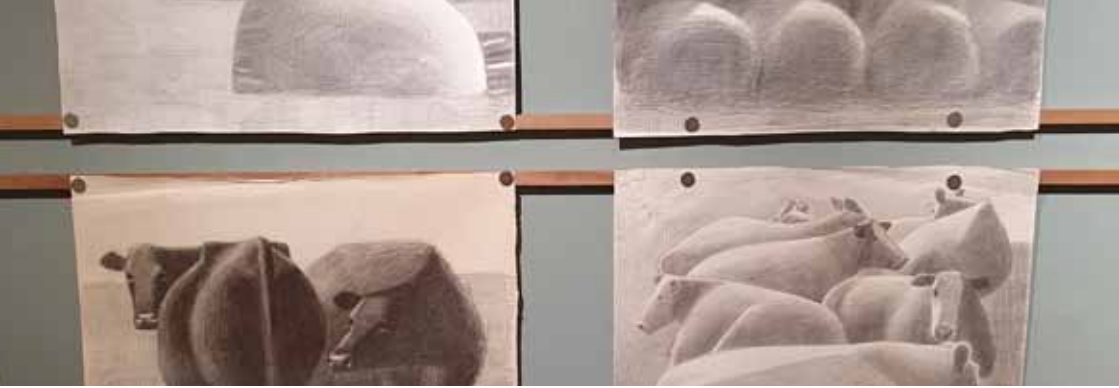


The Golden Age of French Tourist Posters



A group of Friends visited Falmouth Art Gallery on Tuesday 11 February and were greeted by Henrietta Boex the Director. After coffee and biscuits she gave an interesting talk on the history of the pencil and the work of 3 Cornish artists, after which the group had an opportunity to look around the Gallery and at the interesting exhibits.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak we have had to cancel all events until the Autumn. When we are able to resume our programme these will be advertised on the Friends website and on the noticeboards in the Cathedral.



Coffee mornings at the moment are suspended and we hope they will resume in the Autumn. The first three coffee mornings of 2020 were extremely well attended.

The Film Club had another successful season with a varied selection of films which commenced on 13 September with Keeping Mum and concluded on 13 March with **I, Daniel Blake**. These are usually held on the second Friday of the months of September through to March. The cost of a Season Ticket is £15.

Beetle Drives are due to commence, subject to Covid-19 guidelines, in the Chapter House Restaurant at 3pm on Wednesday 2 September 2020 and future dates for Autumn-Winter 2020/2021 are 7 October, 4 November, 6 January, 3 February and 3 March. The cost of a ticket is £5 per person per session which includes a delicious tea.

Congratulations are extended to Pauline Sansom and Brian Spong who have been awarded the St Piran's Cross

Further details of all our events can be found on the Friends website:

www.friendsofrurocathedral.org.uk

Should you need to contact us please leave a message on our ansaphone, 01872 274986, or via email:

info@friendsofrurocathedral.org.uk / events@friendsofrurocathedral.org.uk
membership@friendsofrurocathedral.org.uk

On behalf of the Fundraising Team I would like to thank you, our Members, for supporting the events and for being a Friend.

Angela Hare
Chair Fundraising Team
May 2020

EVERY FRIEND SHOULD FIND A FRIEND TO BECOME A FRIEND

Financial support provided to the Chapter by the Friends of Truro Cathedral during this Millenium

Music Dept	£15,400	2000 on
Flower Guild	£14,850	2000 on
Refurbishment of restaurant	£10,000	2008
Toilets for disabled	£15,000	2006
Repairs of gates & railings	£36,000	2008/9
Photogrammetric Survey	£53,950	2003/9
Conservation Plans, Fire Risk Assessments, "Energy Saving"	£56,026	2008/10
Fabric repairs		
Main Tower, West Front, East End etc	£271,843	2004/11
Inspire Cornwall	£250,000	2010
Education Dept	£22,196	2012
Choir & verger cassocks, fine Linen altar cloths	£7,462	2013/16
Provision of new Toilets	£127,098	2018
Re-surfacing car park	£24,195	2019

By no means an exhaustive list but an indication of what can be achieved by the membership and an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers augmented by receipt of significant and very welcome Legacies.



Friends Autumn Event

Sunday 22nd November 2020

10.00am – Sung Eucharist

12 noon – Lunch

2.15pm – Short Meeting

2.30pm Our Speaker will be

The Very Revd Bishop Philip Mounstephen

Membership Report

Friends need Friends

As I write this, we are in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak. Many of us are self isolated and vulnerable. We need friends, more than ever and what better way than to join the Friends of Truro Cathedral and be a part of our network of caring for our beautiful Cathedral and each other. Although it has sadly been necessary to suspend our brilliant fundraising activities, we are working on other ways to keep in touch, possibly by more frequent emails or by telephone.

Since our Annual Meeting in May last year, we have welcomed 25 new members, including six life members. This is really good news and we hope these members will eventually be able to enjoy the fellowship and fun we offer when we are able to resume these activities. In the meantime, dear members, do please encourage your non-member friends and neighbours to join us - all are welcome.

Just a reminder for those of you who pay your subscription in cash annually. It might be more convenient for you to pay by standing order, in which case, I will be more than pleased to help you with that. Whilst on the subject of subscriptions, one other thing to note. If for any reason you are no longer a tax payer, but you have gift aided your subscription in the past, please let us know so that we do not inadvertently claim back the tax.

So returning again to the sad situation we are all finding ourselves in at present, the more we can do to support our cathedral in these difficult times, the better. There are all sorts of ways to do this, but supporting through donations to the Friends ensures that the money goes straight to the heart of the matter and where it is most needed.

Thank you all for your loyalty and support. Please take care and stay safe.

Pam Miller
Membership Secretary
membershipsecretary@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Warden's Report

At the time of writing the cathedral services are on hold until further notice and all volunteers have been stood down. Global stock markets are in freefall and the government has told us to self-isolate for three months with only the supermarket delivery man to talk to from your bedroom window.

Against this backdrop of doom and gloom I thought I would try to cheer us all up (I'm struggling). You may have noticed we have new floor mats at the West End entrance to the cathedral which will hopefully stop us slipping over when it's raining. Thank you to Canon Alan and Assistant Warden Sonja Hooper for organising this and to the Friends for funding it.

The Guild has a new Assistant Warden, Adam Birchall, who replaces Stuart Evans who is currently on a cruise ship with his wife Penny trying to find a country to visit that hasn't succumbed to Corvid 19. Good luck with that Stuart, Antarctica maybe! Seriously though, thanks to Stuart for his time as an Assistant Warden and we look forward to seeing him when he returns from his travels.

The eagle eyed among you may have noticed my appearance on BBC Spotlight after being interviewed on the cathedral steps just before the Pet's Carol Service. After being taken totally by surprise by the reporter with a mic and camera thrust into my face my couple of minutes interview was aired as a five second soundbite. Infamy, infamy they've all got it in for me!

Take care, look after yourselves and each other.

Adam Starr
Warden



Truro Cathedral Servers Head Server's Report

As it was this time last year, the number of Cathedral servers has reduced to 20 from 24. Every Service over the last year has been covered by the requisite number of Servers and Beverly and I are most grateful for the generous and enthusiastic support that each Server has given.

Eric Dare has retired during the year, after Serving since December 1995. Over almost 25 years Eric has provided loyal Service as both a Server and a Communion Assistant and his presence and wise counsel will be very much missed by us all.

John James - JJ - has served since February 2008 and again has been a very regular server. Not to be seen at the larger events JJ has restricted his time to serving unobtrusively at the 8.00am Sunday Services. JJ has served every other week for over 11 years and his presence at these services has been invaluable as 8.00am is not the most popular of times with everyone!

Keith Sparrow has not served for some months but remains a regular Lay Assistant. We have effectively accepted his resignation and work on the assumption that if there was a crisis he could be approached. Keith joined in April 2006 and has been of immense value during the years since that time. Again he has given generously of his time in fulfilling a number of different roles.

Alyn Heath rejoined us in July 2018 but resigned again in July 2019. We are sorry to finally lose him as he too was a very useful member of our team.

Beverly Hulme remains responsible for preparing Servers' Rotas both quarterly and monthly and also providing additional Servers for Funerals and other one-off Services. Separate Rotas are also provided for the two major Festivals at Christmas and Easter. Beverly continues to do a remarkable and particularly efficient job in sometimes more than difficult circumstances and our thanks go out to her.

Beverly works closely with Sally Stephens who is responsible for the preparation of the Quarterly Communion Assistants' Rotas as a large number of servers are also Communion Assistants and Vice Versa. The two Rotas have been combined and this seems to operate well with Beverly and Sally working closely together.

I would also like to thank Mary Prior and the Ladies of the Sewing Guild who look after all the alterations and repairs to the Albs and Vestments of the Cathedral Clergy and Servers.

January 2018 saw the Welcome and Enthronement of Bishop Philip Mounstephen and it has been announced that the former Bishop of Norwich has returned to Truro and will be welcomed and enthroned as Assistant Bishop of Truro on March 22nd. In addition it has been announced that the new Bishop of St Germans will be the Reverend Hugh Nelson and he will be admitted in June.

The Venerable Paul Bryer was Collated and Installed as Archdeacon of Cornwall On 1st September 2019 and is warmly welcomed and we hope that he will enjoy his time in Cornwall.

I should like to close this report in thanking the Chapter for their support over the past year and pray that in the future we, as Servers and Communion Assistants, can continue to fulfil our roles with reverence and dignity.

Peter Hewson

(Prepared to 31st January 2020)

Truro Cathedral Restaurant and Coffee Shop

In view of the uncertainty of the immediate future please can you refer to one of the following before travelling

www.trurocathedral.org.uk
catering@trurocathedral.org.uk
telephone: 01872 245011 Ext 301



Sewing Guild Report 2020

The last year has been very different for many reasons.

We have been presented with many challenges requiring use of creativity both mentally and with our hands. This included work to repair the skirt around the Cathedral Nativity display – an excessive amount of material often seemingly full of hay! This is still ongoing and has required the purchase of 25 metres of fabric velcro with no glue (otherwise every needle pulled through the velcro emerges covered with glue).

The embroidery on the face of the White Altar Frontal needed repair fortunately we are not short of gold thread. It is such a privilege to try to repair the beautiful work done by previous needle workers decades or even more time ago.

In addition we have the ongoing work on clergy vestments and choir cassocks etc. This could be much increased in the near future as we will be trying to update the Cathedral Inventory of Vestments, linens and other items. This will give us an opportunity to check items which rarely see the light of day and again may well need MOTs.

During the course of the year we have unfortunately lost the services of Pearl Dunstan and Wendy Coakley to whom we express our gratitude for their great contribution to our travail. We are therefore now reduced to three people. Mary Prior, Sue Odgers and Brenda Bashforth. Work may take a little longer but we still find it immensely inspiring.

If there is anyone out there who would like to join us please step forward. It is not necessary to have training or certificates just enthusiasm and the ability to draw a sewing needle from one side of material to the other.

Mary Prior

Friends AGM

As our Members will realise it has not been possible to hold our usual AGM on 17th May because of the constrictions of Lockdown. Currently we have provisionally arranged to have a very short AGM hopefully after the Sunday morning service on July 26th. The meeting will be necessary business only. This will only take place of course if conditions at that time allow for church service attendance. This is the furthest date into 2020 that our Constitution allows, but in the prevailing conditions we have to try to follow our Constitution in Spirit if we cannot conform in reality. If not July we may have to delay till September or even until our Autumn Meeting

Mary Prior
Hon Secretary

Please Gift Aid your subscription

Remember that Gift Aiding your subscription gives an extra 25% to the Friends.

If you are a tax payer but not gift-aiding your subscription, you can fill in an appropriate form available from the Friends office (tel: 01872 274986) or from the Friends table in the Cathedral Restaurant on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 11.30am.

Thank you

LEAVING A LEGACY IN YOUR WILL

The Friends and therefore the Cathedral have benefitted greatly from those who have continued their giving by leaving a legacy in their will. Gifts range from specific sums to a share in the Estate once other gifts have been made. If you are reviewing your will, or making a will for the first time, could you consider including a gift to the Friends.

Any gift received will allow us to continue the support of the Fabric, Ministry and Life of our wonderful Cathedral.

A possible form of words for such request:

I bequeath to the Friends of Truro Cathedral, The Old Cathedral School, Cathedral Green, Truro TR1 2FQ registered Charity Number 1075211 the sum of £....(for a specific sum) or the residue (or ashare of the residue) of my Estate.

