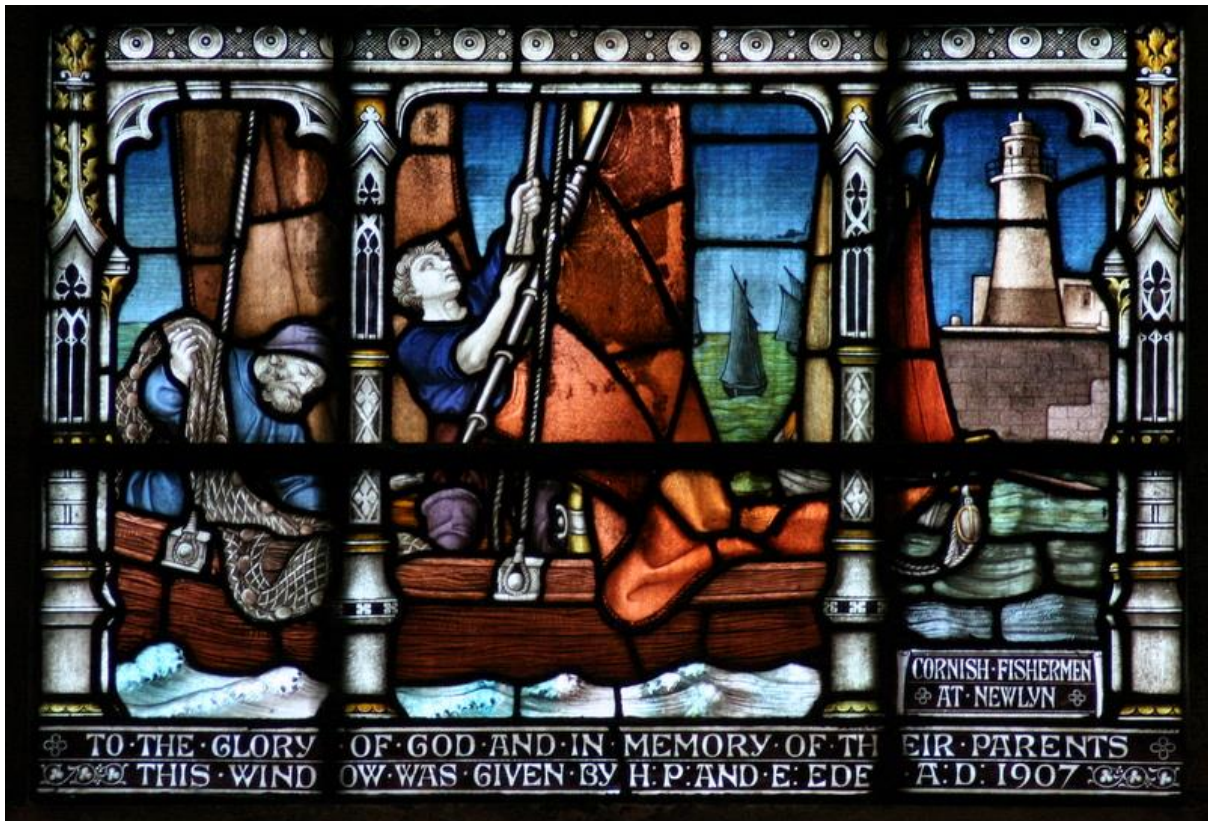


Friends of Truro Cathedral.
Annual Report 2023.



THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

Registered Charity no. 1072511

The Old Cathedral School

Cathedral Close, Truro, TR1 2FQ

PATRONS

Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE – Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall

Bishop Philip Mounstephen – Bishop of Truro

FRIENDS COUNCIL

Mr Adam Starr - Chairman

Canon Alan Bashforth – Vice Chairman

Miss Mary Prior – Secretary

Mr Martin Welton – Treasurer

Mrs Pam Miller – Membership Secretary

Canon Simon Griffiths

Mr Ian Hare

Mrs Angela Hare

Mr Richard Lingham

Lady Deirdre Neale

Canon Daphne Skinnard

Ms Marilyn Trevelyan

Chairman's Report.

Dear Friends

Firstly, I would like to thank Dean Roger for his time as President of the Friends. May he and Lois enjoy a long and happy retirement.

The position of President is traditionally filled by the Dean but the Friends constitution states "There shall be a President of The Friends who shall be nominated by the Council and elected at the Annual General Meeting." It has been decided to let the position go unfilled until the AGM next year when the new Dean has been appointed.

I would also like to thank Angela Hare and the Social and Fund-raising Committee for all their hard work raising funds for the Friends.

Legacies are at present down in numbers and the Friends membership is also down from pre-covid levels of around 600 to just over 500 producing a reduction in income.

As many of you will know there is currently an appeal to refurbish and repair the roof of St Mary's Aisle. Unsightly marks can be seen on the walls and ceiling near the bosses and water ingress threatens the 18th century organ and flooring. The lead guttering and Delabole slate roof need urgent repairs as does the stonework and windows. Internally the décor and furnishings need refurbishment. These issues also mean that heat is lost through the roof and walls increasing the heating bill. Making the necessary repairs to the Aisle will secure it for future generations.

The cathedral has a target of £500,000 to secure the future of St. Mary's Aisle and the Friends have so far donated £20,000 towards this amount.

At the AGM on May 21st, 2 members of our current Friends Council come to the end of their 6-year terms and will be standing down. These are Canon Simon Griffiths and Treasurer Martin Welton. We are therefore looking for a replacement Treasurer. If you feel that you could take on this role please get in touch.

Adam Starr

Chairman

FUNDRAISING REPORT – APRIL 2023

Summertime has started and we are all looking forward to longer days and warmer weather.

By popular demand the Beetle Drive was our first event of the year and was held on 1 February. It was well attended and it was nice to see some newcomers join the happy band of players. When it had finished there were cries of “when will you be holding another one?” The answer is: probably in the Autumn.

March has been a very wet month but we were lucky as the sun shone on the afternoon of 30 March when Michael Tedder gave his talk on Almost Forgotten Women of the Diocese. The good weather encouraged people to come along to the Old Cathedral School to hear a most interesting talk on 6 influential ladies.

On Wednesday 26 April a party of 37 of us are travelling by coach to **Buckfast Abbey**. We have an interesting programme planned and are hoping that it will be a warm and sunny day to enable us to enjoy the Abbey and its beautiful grounds.

Our **annual river trip** will take place on Tuesday 4 July starting from Truro Quay at 6pm and returning at 8pm. The boat will cruise the creeks including Ruan, Pill, Cowlands and Coombe. The ticket price of £20 will include a pasty and passengers are welcome to bring their own refreshments. This year the bar will be open for snacks and drinks. As usual we will have an exciting raffle. Tickets will be on sale at the coffee morning on 10 May.

Our monthly **coffee mornings** are well attended and are a perfect opportunity for us to share friendship and fellowship which are an important object of the Friends.

Future events to look forward to are a walk through Historic Truro with Bert Biscoe in September, a Backstage Tour of The Hall for Cornwall in October and a Musical Event in November.

Further details of all the above events, when finalised, will be found on the noticeboard in the Cathedral or on the Friends of Truro Cathedral website:

<https://www.friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk> You can reserve a ticket for these events by leaving a message on the Friends telephone 01872 274986 or by emailing: info@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk or events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

The Committee wish to thank Juliet Lingham, who retires as a Fundraising Team Member in May, for her contribution and hard work. We are pleased to welcome Jenny Skinnard as a new Team Member.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to our Members for their continued support.

Angela Hare

Chair of Social and Fundraising Team

April 2023

When Friends meet, hearts warm

Shop

Located next to the Jesus Chapel left of the main doors of the Cathedral, our shop sells a range of items. From books to postcards, stationery to CDs, we have gifts for all occasions. Our friendly staff are happy to help and offer advice.

Opening Hours

10.30-15.30 Monday to Saturday

12.00-15.00 Sunday

Common Grounds Café

Common Grounds has now opened up a new permanent home in the old cathedral shop, at the front of the cathedral. Join us for coffee made with locally roasted Olfactory beans, a range of sweet treats and sandwiches.

Pay It Forward Community Scheme

This scheme allows you to buy a coffee, sandwich or treat for a stranger and brew a little kindness. It will then be noted on a slip and pinned up. Anyone in need is able to take a slip to the counter and receive the item(s) written on it for free].

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday: 10.00-15.30

Sundays 12.00-15.00

MUSIC WHICH INSPIRES



Since 1887 the Cathedral's magnificent Father Willis organ has provided the focus for much fine music-making in the hands of a succession of highly talented Organists, who were able to establish and maintain a choir of boys and men which by the end of the first World War had won renown nationally and internationally. The brief but illustrious tenure of John Dykes Bower from 1926 was followed by that of the talented Guillaume Ormond from 1929 to 1971. From the 1960s onwards, he and his

successors were encouraged by the Dean, and Chapter to engage in a wider musical outreach both locally and nationally to enhance Truro Cathedral's status as an important venue for recitals and diverse performances as well as remaining a true exemplar of all that is best in church music. This also set in train a sequence of events which also led to the establishment of two of the best amateur choirs in the Southwest.

In his final years in post, Dean Henry Lloyd created a partnership with the County Council and the English Tourist Board to establish the Three Spires Festival of the arts based on the cathedral. It prospered from 1981 to 1992, but its value survives today in the form of the highly successful Three Spires Singers, who have been conducted by each of the cathedral's directors of music since David Briggs took up the baton from 1989 to 1994. The 1980s also saw the evolution of St Mary's Singers as the cathedral's voluntary choir, initially led by David Cheetham as an extension of his role as a Lay Vicar in the cathedral choir. With endorsement from the Chapter, they have gone from strength to strength, directed by each Assistant Director of Music since Christopher Gray in 2000. Both choirs have attained standards of performance enabling them to make well-received recordings and to be broadcast by the BBC.

These developments coincided with significant changes in the Cathedral choir itself following the closure of the Cathedral School in 1982. As well as being the educational base for boy choristers, it had provided a significant number of men singers who by the 1990s were now retiring. During his time as Director of Music from 1994-2002, Andrew Nethsingha obtained external grant aid to establish annually competed for posts of choral and organ scholars. This has greatly strengthened the choir and provided talented young singers with a valuable route to progress onwards in musical education or professional singing careers. It has since been firmly supported by Andrew's successors, Robert Sharp and Christopher Gray.

Over the years since 1888, Truro Cathedral has faithfully followed the Church of England tradition of offering boys aged 8-12 years the highest standards of education and musical training. By 2014 it became increasingly clear to Dean Roger Bush and his Chapter colleagues that similar opportunities must be offered to girls and the resulting girls' choir has since proved an unqualified success. This has reflected the considerable skills and commitment of Christopher Gray, as Director of Music and of his Assistants, firstly Luke Bond and latterly Andrew Wyatt. It has also demonstrated the value of the relationships developed initially with Polwhele School and now with Truro School and its Prep School, whose teachers of music and other related subjects continue to give their wholehearted support.

The results of these endeavours are manifested in the wonderful music of daily services and in a host of quite brilliant concerts, broadcasts and recordings, for which we will always remain grateful as we say farewell to Christopher Gray and extend a warm welcome his successor James Anderson-Besant.

That Truro Cathedral stands in the front rank musically speaking is surely evidenced by the career successes of so many of its Musical Directors and their Assistants. David Briggs is now a noted international organ soloist. Andrew Nethsingha is Organist at Westminster Abbey and Robert Sharp at York Minster. Luke Bond is Assistant Director at St George's Chapel Windsor. Christopher Gray is to be Director of Music at St John's College Cambridge after Easter. We thank them all most sincerely for their talented contributions to the musical life of Cornwall and the wider world and for enriching both our worship and our cultural experience.



Chris Gray.

Thank you, Chris, for all the joy your music has given.

Organ Recitals

The 2023 Organ Recital Series sees the cathedral welcome first-rate organists to play Truro's acclaimed Father Willis Organ.

The Series runs from [March to October](#) and each recital lasts around 45 minutes. Each lunchtime concert is completely free to attend, the cathedral only asks that if you are able, please consider making a donation – the income generated by the generosity of both the audience and artists (who play for free) directly supports music at the cathedral and the ability to continue to offer such community events. To give regularly by Direct Debit, please use the [Parish Giving Scheme](#). Single donations can be made through [Just Giving](#).

Servers Report



This past year has been a challenging one for the Serving team as we have gradually emerged from Covid restrictions. We have willingly and patiently coped with different layouts, seating, 'choreography' and practices. We have now almost returned to the pre COVID days of using the High Altar with the prospects of using a Podium or Nave Altar at certain seasons of the year.

Our membership has stabilised, with the addition of new servers and the prospect of two more joining after Easter. Several of our new servers have a wealth of experience from their former churches. What is pleasing is that we have recruited four younger members. However, several of our servers are facing a variety of health problems and have not yet returned. We noted with sadness the deaths of two former servers, Eric Irons and Alyn Heath

A service for Admission and Re- Dedication of Servers and Communion Assistants is planned for Solemn Evensong for the Eve of Ascension, Wednesday May17th 2023

In past years servers supported a variety of daily and weekly services, which have not yet returned but we continue to support Special Services and of course, Funerals. Over the past year we supported over 60 special services and 12 funerals in addition to Sunday Eucharists.

One notable occasion was the farewell service for our former Dean, Roger Bush, when we turned out in force as a thank you and acknowledgement of his support for us. We also provided support at short notice for the services associated with the death of Queen Elizabeth II and we look forward to the services associated with the Coronation of King Charles iii.

Once again, we thank the Sewing Guild for effecting any running repairs and are sincerely grateful for the support of our clergy.

Peter Hewson and Beverly Hulme

FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL AGM

Sunday 21st May 2023

Assembly Room, Old Cathedral School

2.00pm – AGM

2.30pm – Speaker Interim Dean Simon Robinson

3.30pm – Refreshments (tea and cake)

4.00pm – Choral Evensong

(Above timings other than 2.00pm start will be flexible depending on length of speeches and number of questions)

AGM Agenda

Opening prayer

Apologies for absence

Acceptance Minutes of AGM 22nd May 2022

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Presentation of Accounts for 2022

Election of Officers

Please Note

Canon Simon Griffiths and Treasurer Martin Welton have come to the end of their 2nd 3-year term and stand down with our thanks. We are having difficulty finding a new Treasurer and may have to ask Martin to agree to be co-opted as a non-voting Treasurer for a year.

Should anyone wish to propose someone for Council membership please contact the office for a form for completion.

Friends of Truro Cathedral

Minutes of AGM 22nd May 2022.

Present: President plus 29 members

Apologies For Absence

David & Jean Shearlock, Roy and Brenda Bashforth, Mary Pett, Tony Robothan, Susan Odgers, John & Elizabeth Lloyd, Jenny & Keith Halstead, Sarah McLachlan, David & Ann Werry, Charles Butchart, Michael Tedder, Jenny Tippet, Mike & Mary Corkeram, Jennifer & Ivor Hicks, Ann Mundler, Roberta Evans, Daphne Skinnard, Jennifer Brewer, Peter Hewson, John & Pauline Sansom.

Minutes of AGM 25th July 2021

Confirmed all members had received a copy of the Minutes. Reviewed.

Minutes were Accepted with no alteration.

There Were No Matters Arising from last year's Minutes.

Chairman's Report Adam Starr, the Chairman, began with thanks to Angela Hare and all her helpers on the fundraising team who had raised a significant sum of money during a difficult year when opportunity was limited. Thanks were also given to Mark Evans and John Sansom both of whom Adam had been very happy to work with during their time as Council Members. Both Mark and John had worked hard and with enthusiasm to ensure the interests of the Friends were looked after. They had now come to the end of their terms and were standing down. Obviously, our low level of funds at the moment have restricted what we have been able to do but it is partly the result of having given £38,000 to the Chapter to help during the pandemic. This had itself been preceded by a large sum of money, £133,000, given to pay for new toilets.

In course at the moment is a project together with other organisations in the Truro community to place a sculpture of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II in one of the alcoves on the West Front of the Cathedral (many of her ancestors are already there). We also hope in the future to reintroduce the Friends lunch on the day of the AGM.

This year with staff shortages in the restaurant and the only chef singing in the Cathedral Choir for the Sunday Eucharist, it has not been practical to try to produce lunch for a minimum of 30 people

Presentation of Accounts for 2021 Income is down on last year because of the reduction in legacies and donations. Income for both 2021 and 2020 was well down on previous years because of Covid.

Subscriptions have held up against 2020 and previous years.

Fund Raising income was similar to last year but was down on previous years because of Covid. Expenditure. We have made big savings by not issuing an Autumn report this year and sending the AGM report mainly by email.

Grants to Chapter.

There have been no grants to Chapter this year (2021) as our funds were greatly reduced last year (2020) with our payment of £38K to Chapter at the start of lockdown.

Hopefully as our funds start to pick up in 2022, we will be in a better position to recommence our grant giving. In fact we have already paid £2.6K for the specialised floor cleaner for the new toilets.

Accounts were accepted unanimously.

Revd Paul Arthur was nominated and accepted to continue as Independent Auditor.

Proposal for increase in Membership Subscription Fees.

Over the last few years we have lost in the region of 100 members. Also, donations and legacies have dropped. Our charity needs to set about a rebuild of membership numbers back to previous levels which were in excess of 650 individuals rather than the current 500. Any ideas for a recruitment drive would be welcome.

Currently we have about 400 "records" (counting joint as one record). We have more than a hundred life members included in the 400 plus several PCCs who pay varying amounts and a surprising number of members who already pay annually an amount exceeding the proposed increased sub rate. It is possible that only 200 subscriptions will be subject to an actual increase. This could increase our income by up to £1,000 depending on whether all 200 actually follow through with the increases or ignore/cancel.

Looking to the future of the Friends of Truro Cathedral, increasing the sub is one step we need to take in tandem with a membership drive.

The proposal to increase the membership fees is as follows:

single £15 to £20, *joint* £25 to £30.
Life members - single to £300, *joint* to £450
Implementation date to be 1st January 2023.

The proposal was passed.

Election of Council Members

New members: Ian Hare and Richard Lingham

Second 3 year term as Secretary: Mary Prior

There was no further business and the Meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

The Friends Office

Post:The Old Cathedral School.

School Green, Truro, TR1 2FQ

Email: info@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

membershipsecretary@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

Telephone: 01872 274986 with 24hour answerphone



Window dedicated to Mrs Sarah Pollock Benney

The window, in St Monica's Chapel, represents the ordination of St. Timothy by St Paul. The lady on the far left who was supposedly Eunice the mother of St. Timothy has been given the face of Mrs Benney who died in 1897.

Mrs Benney was a member of the Management of the Fal Ferry. She was a great fundraiser and in her last years raised enough money to purchase 600 wooden chairs for the Cathedral which was in course of being built. It was said that the money came from raising the fares on the ferry.

The wooden chairs I am afraid during the last two years have been moved on and no longer can be seen in the Nave. Sad but it must be said they were rather small for the somewhat larger profiles of today's congregation. Again legend has it that Mrs Benney herself was a little larger than the norm and could not sit on one of her own chairs.