



THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

THE ANNUAL REPORT 2024





THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

Registered Charity no 1072511
The Old Cathedral School
Cathedral Close
Truro TR1 2FG

PATRON

Colonel Edward Bolitho OBE – *Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall*

FRIENDS COUNCIL

Mr Adam Starr – *Chairman*
Canon Alan Bashforth – *Vice Chairman*
Miss Mary Prior – *Secretary*
Mr Martin Welton – *Treasurer*
Mrs Pam Miller – *Membership Secretary*
Mrs Angela Hare
Mr Ian Hare
Mr Richard Lingham
Lady Deirdre Neale
Canon Daphne Skinnard

Election of President:

Currently we do not have a President. In line with our Constitution the Council will be nominating Father Simon Robinson, Dean of the Cathedral, to be our President.

Election to take place at beginning of the AGM.

Chairman's Report

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you in my last couple of months as the Chair of the Friends of Truro Cathedral. I first joined the Council in 2016 and I have had the honour to serve as both Chair and Vice-Chair. I know that is a term of 8 years which is not usual but one was discounted due to covid.

I have seen Council Members come and go; Chris Barley, Mark Evans, Roberta Evans, Peter Hewson, John Sansom, Eric Mundler and Chris Rowe to name a few. It has been a tricky few years as far as finances have gone, not just for the Friends but society in general with Covid 19 causing such disruption to the life of the cathedral.

The largest financial projects undertaken by the Friends in my time have been the refurbishment of the toilets at £128,000, supporting Chapter during the pandemic costing £36,000 and the tarmacking of the car park at £24,000.

Other grants provided included non-slip mats in the Narthex, a floor cleaning machine, pigeon netting in the South Porch, grants to the Flower Guild and Music Department and new foldaway chairs for the nave.

I am not the only Officer stepping down from the Friends Council. Canon Alan Bashforth steps down as Vice-Chair as does Mary Prior as Secretary. Pam Miller finishes as Membership Secretary with all of us coming to our duly allotted time in post. The post of Treasurer which has been carried out by Martin Welton on a temporary basis will also need to be filled.

In the light of these changes can encourage members of the Friends to seek nomination to Council either as an Office holder or Council Member. Appointments will be made at the AGM on the 26th May at which our guest speaker this year is the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall.

Whilst I am stepping down as Chairman I will continue to remain the Warden of the Guild of Lay Assistants and a Communion Assistant.

I would like to thank the Members of Council over these last eight years for their support and friendship, Angela Hare and her team for their hard and continual fundraising work and last but not least, you, the Membership for your ongoing support for our great Cornish Cathedral.

Adam Starr



**FRIENDS FESTIVAL DAY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 26 MAY 2024**

Programme

10am Sung Eucharist

12.30pm Buffet lunch in the Chapter House

2pm AGM

Agenda

Opening Prayer

Election of President

Apologies for absence

Minutes of Previous AGM Sunday 21 May 2023

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Presentation and acceptance of Accounts for 2023
Appointment of Auditor.

Election of Officers and new Council members
Please note we need 4 new members including a Secretary.
A nomination form is included in this Report.

Closing Prayer

2.30pm Speaker

**Colonel Sir Edward Thomas Bolitho KCVO OBE CstJ
Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall**

3.15pm Refreshments and questions

4pm Choral Evensong





Fundraising Report April 2024

As I write it is proving to be a very wet and cold start to Spring. To help lift everybody's spirits the Fundraising Team have arranged a variety of events which we hope will appeal to all.

The first event of the year was a musical evening on a cold January evening and Amici Voci performed for us in the Chapter House of the Cathedral. The programme covered a variety of musical styles from Handel, Mozart and Faure to modern composers and finally to music from Josh Groban and Billy Joel. The event was well supported and was a wonderful start to the New Year.

On 6 March Michael Swift gave a talk on George Tinworth of Royal Doulton Pottery and his terracotta panels. The enormous panel in the Cathedral is the first one he made and is now the only one still on public view. The event attracted a lot of interest and was well supported.

Our coach outing this year is to **Buckland Abbey on 2 May**. The coach departs Truro at 0930 from the NCP car park and will arrive back in Truro at 1800 hrs. Hundreds of years ago, Cistercian monks chose this tranquil valley as the perfect spot in which to worship, farm their estate and trade. The Abbey, later converted into a house, today combines furnished rooms with museum galleries, bringing to life the story of how seafaring adventurers Sir Richard Grenville and Sir Francis Drake changed the shape of Buckland Abbey and the fate of England. Outdoors you'll find the formal Elizabethan Garden, walled kitchen garden and Cider House garden, orchards and woodland walks with far-reaching views and late spring bluebells. Cost of tickets are £30 which include the coach travel and guided tour of the Abbey only.

Please note ticket price does NOT INCLUDE ENTRY TO BUCKLAND ABBEY. FOR NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS ENTRY IS FREE AND FOR NON-NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERS £14.25.

Bert Biscoe has kindly agreed to lead an **evening stroll round Truro on 6 June**. The group will meet at High Cross at 6pm then walk down St Mary's Street to the Grammar School and via New Bridge Street and Furniss Island to Worth's Quay. Back via Riverside Walk, past St Mary's Sunday School to the Millpool then to the top of Pydar Street to 21 Union Place. Bert will entertain the group whilst they are having refreshments. Ticket price is £10.

The Annual River Cruise is on Tuesday 23 July. Moyana will depart from Truro Town Quay at 1815 and return to Truro Town Quay at 2015. Ticket price is £21 which will include a pasty.

Coffee mornings on the second Wednesday of every month are as popular as ever and we always look forward to welcoming newcomers.

During the last 3 months of 2023 the Fundraising Team have been collecting current and obsolete coins and banknotes from all over the world. Donations have included coin collections which included crowns, half crowns and pristine banknotes. These were taken to Spink in London to be individually sold and the banknotes will be auctioned at a later stage. We now have 25 kilograms of coins to be sorted through which is a time consuming task.

Autumn events are at the planning stage but we hope to arrange an outing to St Hilary's Church and a talk by Cath Wallace, Art Society Lecturer on Annie Walke one of the Newlyn School of Painters. Further details of these events and others will be available later in the year.

The Committee wish to thank Raye Bachmann and Deirdre Neale, who have retired as Fundraising Team Members, for their dedication and hard work. We are pleased to welcome Anne Cresswell as a new Team Member.

Further details of all the events can be found on the noticeboard in the Cathedral or on the Friends of Truro Cathedral Website: <https://www.friendsoftrurocathedral>

You can reserve a ticket for the above events by leaving a message on the Friends telephone 01872 274986 or by emailing i.a.hare@btinternet.com

Angela Hare

Chair of Fundraising

*EVERY FRIEND SHOULD FIND A FRIEND
TO BECOME A FRIEND!*



Guild of Lay Assistants Report

Dear Friends,

As Warden of the Guild of Lay Assistants of the Cathedral Church of our Blessed Virgin Mary in Truro I am pleased to give this update of The Guild's activities over the last 12 months or so.

The Guild currently has 26 active members with emeritus Lay Assistants helping at the busier times of year which is mainly Christmas. Sixteen of the Guild are men along with ten ladies. Over the last year we have provided support at eleven funerals, every Sunday morning eucharist and Sunday evensong along with Christmas and Easter special services plus some one-off services.

The members of the Guild come from a diverse background. Three doctors, four teachers, a nurse, a farmer, senior Cornwall Council manager, a town planner, a banker, an artist, an actor, an engineer, business people, an accountant, a media star and one or two that I'm not sure about.

We had our annual Guild Dinner back in June at Epiphany House with welcome drinks on the veranda and a tour of the house prior to the meal. The men always dress to impress whilst the ladies look fabulous, as always. The food was excellent, and we will return there in June for this year's extravaganza.

The Guild held it's AGM in February where we discuss how things have gone over Christmas, where the Guild members can air any areas of concern and make plans for the future.

I hope this article gives you something of an insight into the Guild and I look forward to seeing you in and around the cathedral over the coming summer months.

Adam Starr
Warden

Organ Recitals

The 2024 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.

FRIENDS WEBSITE:

www.friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

Should you need to contact us please email us on:

info@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

membership@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk

Friends of Truro Cathedral

Minutes of AGM 21st May 2023

Present: President plus 29 members

Apologies For Absence

David & Jean Shearlock, Mary Pett, Susan Odgers, Elizabeth Lloyd, Jenny & Keith Halstead, Charles Butchart, Michael Tedder, Mike & Mary Corkeram, Peter Hewson, Graham Ratcliffe, Stephen Tucker, Don and Catherine Foster, Jenny Tippett, Margaret Adams, Daphne Worraker, Michael Swift.

Minutes of AGM 22nd May 2022

Confirmed all members had received a copy of the Minutes. There were no question or amendments.

Minutes were Accepted with no alteration.

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

Chairman's Report

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.



Presentation of Accounts for 2022

Income was boosted by 3 legacies amounting to £10,466. Fund raising increased on last year as things were getting back to normal after Covid 19.

Expenditure was Similar to last year, with the small increase in fund raising because of increased activity.

Grants to Chapter. £10,000 was paid to Chapter as an ongoing contribution to St Marys Aisle roof repairs. This will be our main focus for the foreseeable future until Chapter has sufficient funds to go ahead with the repairs.

We also bought a special cleaner and dryer for the new toilet floors (£2,664).

Summary: We are now in a much improved financial situation as we get back to normal after Covid.

A suggestion was made that we could invest in say Premium Bonds as Bank interest was so low. It was pointed out that only individuals could buy Premium Bonds not Corporate or business entities.

Accounts were accepted unanimously.

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

Election of Council Members

2 members of our current Friends Council have come to the end of their 6-year terms and are standing down. These are Canon Simon Griffiths and Treasurer Martin Welton. We have therefore been looking for a replacement Treasurer without success. In the circumstances Martin has agreed to carry on for a further year as a non-voting member of Council. No other nominations were made.

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

Accepted and Signed.

TRURO CATHEDRAL SERVERS REPORT

Friends of Truro Cathedral AGM MAY 2024

Before reviewing what has been a busy and successful year for Servers, it is necessary to start by reporting the death of two of our most respected members.

On 6th April 2023, one of our former and regular Servers, John Sansom, passed away. John was a very loyal and regular Server for 13 years before his retirement in 2019. John was a Lay Canon and a very valued member of the Lay Assistants. The Cathedral Community continue to support his widow Pauline and their beloved Skye.

On Sunday 4th February (2024) it was reported that, after a short illness, Sally Stephens had died early that morning. She will be deeply missed by all those who knew her and remembered for her warmth and encouragement that she extended to everyone. She had served since February 2015 and was a very valued member of the Guild. She soon became a Communion Assistant and in recent times had been organising the Communion Assistants' Rota with Beverly. An active member of the Congregation, she was in every way a devoted member of the Cathedral Family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Over the last year, we should celebrate the fact that we have supported all the following Services:
52 Sunday Eucharist Services, 77 Special Services and 14 Funerals.

We have also re-instated a Rota for the Friday BCP services and Nicola and Peter are serving at the daily Holy Communion Services wherever possible

In addition to our "Routine" services, a number of special services have taken place.

Choral Evensong on Sunday 21st January (2024) saw the Institution and Installation of the Reverend Canon Simon Robinson as Dean of Truro and Rector of St Mary's, Truro. The Service was very well attended and, with assistance from the Director of Music, the music selected was of the highest order and there was an excellent Sermon from the Reverend Prebendary Stephen Stuckes, a friend and mentor to Canon Simon.

Other Notable services have included the Funerals of Canon Malcolm Byron, John Sansom, Geoff Yelland, Archdeacon Rodney and Sally Stephens. On Happier notes, Servers turned out to celebrate Robert Preston's 40th Anniversary service. Bishop Hugh confirmed six young people which included two of our servers, Josh and Mairi.

We have also Served at Services where new procedures have enhanced worship. The Palm Sunday Service ,complete with Donkey, began at the top of Pydar Street and attracted a large crowd. New duties and processions were introduced for the Advent Service, Epiphany, Baptism of Christ and Candlemas.

Membership stands at 27 which is up from 25 at our last AGM.

This year we have welcomed Josh Arnold, a former senior chorister, to our ranks. He has been serving and is also being trained as a Thurifer by Nicky Moxon. Unfortunately both duties have been on hold for a while as Josh sadly succeeded in breaking his thumb but I am glad to report he is now back with us. Lawrence Gemmill also joined our ranks late last year. Also a former head chorister he too is being trained as a Server and Thurifer,

We have also welcomed Jerushah Jardine and her daughter Mairi. Both have been trained as Servers and over Christmas were able to serve together at the Nine Lessons.

These new Servers will bring our number up to 27.

Admission of New Servers

A Service of Admission and Re-Dedication of both Servers and Communion Assistants was held in May 2023 when Server admissions took place. It is hoped that Re-Dedication Service will become an Annual Event.

Thanks

I would like to thank Mary Prior and her sewing team for completing necessary alterations and repairs to our Albs.

I would also thank Beverly for her very onerous work in preparing the Quarterly Rotas and more particularly the Monthly "Specials". As will be appreciated there are a number of changes that are required to procedures and choreography as Services alternate between the High Altar and the Podium Altar

Finally I would thank Chapter for their support and guidance and hope that we can continue to carry out our duties with reverence and dignity.

Peter Hewson and Beverly Hulme

February 2024



The Friends of Truro Cathedral

NOMINATION PAPER 2024

I wish to nominate:

Name:

as a member of the Executive Council.

Proposed by: Name

Signature

Seconded by: Name

Signature

I agree to my nomination, I have read the Principal Responsibilities and, if elected, I agree to act as a Trustee as required by The Charities Commission. I am willing to accept this nomination for the position of:

.....

Nominee's signature

Nominee's contact telephone

(Should you be elected, The Friends will contact you if they need more information.)

Date

Please return completed forms, by 7 May, to:

Mary Prior, The Secretary, Friends of Truro Cathedral,
3 Lake House, Perrancoombe, Perranporth, TR6 0HT

or by email to: mphone800@btinternet.com

The Friends of Truro Cathedral

Election of members of the Executive Council

Nominations for election as a member of the Executive Council, signed by the candidate, the proposer and seconder should be sent to The Secretary to arrive not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

In the event that there are more nominations than vacancies voting for elected members is by secret ballot of members attending the Annual General Meeting (to be held this year on **26 May 2024 in The Chapter House**).

The principle responsibilities of the Executive Council are set out below and on the accompanying form members are asked to nominate others as candidates. Separate forms are required for each nominee and if you need more than one form please either photocopy this one or contact The Secretary for more.

Please note that only recorded members of the Friends of Truro Cathedral may vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Charity Trustees

All Members of the Executive Council are Charity Trustees for The Friends of Truro Cathedral.

The responsibilities of Charity Trustees are summarised in The Charity Commissioners pamphlet CC3(a), a copy of which can be obtained from The Charity Commissioners Website.

The Charity Commissioners state that “You should become a charity trustee only if you are prepared to give the necessary time and effort to the management of the charity; can help the charity achieve its aims through your expertise or commitment; and understand and accept that trusteeship carries legal duties and responsibilities.”

The Executive Council

- Is the guiding body for the Friends, aiming to achieve the Objects set out in the Constitution a copy of which can be found on the Friends website
- Considers and determines applications for grants towards carrying out the Objects of the Friends
- Give advice to the Annual General Meeting on categories of membership and rates of subscription who then vote on the proposal
- Ensure accounts are prepared for each year ending to 31 December for submission to the Annual General Meeting for acceptance
- Prepares for the Annual General Meeting
- Defines the roles and responsibilities of the Officers
- Arranges the editing and printing of the Annual Report and Autumn Newsletter

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 on 01872 274986.

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.