



# THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

## THE ANNUAL REPORT 2025





# THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

Registered Charity no 1072511

The Old Cathedral School

Cathedral Close

Truro TR1 2FG

## **PATRON**

Colonel Sir Edward Bolitho KCVO OBE CStJ – *Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall*

## **PRESIDENT**

The Very Rev'd Simon Robinson – *Dean of Truro*

## **FRIENDS COUNCIL**

Mr Graham Smith – *Chairman*

Mr Ian Hare – *Vice Chairman*

Mrs Gillian Wright – *Secretary*

Mr Martin Welton – *Treasurer*

Mr Mike Cockeram – *Membership Secretary*

Mrs Angela Hare – *Chair of Social & Fundraising Committee*

Mr Richard Lingham

Lady Deirdre Neale

Mrs Pam Miller

# Chairman's Report

*Dear Friends,*

My wife Trudy and I are relatively new members of Truro Cathedral, joining at the onset of Covid lockdown, we found the services such a joyful and uplifting spiritual experience that we soon became involved in the life of this wonderful Cathedral of Cornwall. When lockdowns ceased and the Friends coffee mornings resumed, we started attending them. Everyone was so welcoming that we attended other events so expertly organised by Angela and her team of helpers, the main annual event being the boat trip down the Fal river on a, hopefully, sunny evening. Who can resist especially when a hot Cornish pasty is included! Happy days.

The Friends of Truro Cathedral was originally started on the 26th May 1932, for the purposes of fun, friendship, fellowship and fundraising. Funds raised enables the Friends to help enhance the facilities for all who visit and worship at our great Cathedral, this is also why we have our AGM as near to the date of the formation of the Friends in 1932. Those of you who are not yet Friends, do join and encourage your relatives, friends and neighbours to do the same, it all helps to spread God's message of love, joy and hope and to raise funds in doing so.

Many of the Friends Committee were newly appointed at last year's AGM with Trevor and Jill Wright also joining, but we were in need of a secretary when Mary Prior left, so we advertised within the congregation and were very fortunate to have four highly qualified and experienced people apply. The committee appointed Jill Wright to fill the post until she is, hopefully, approved at this AGM. In support of Jill, she has done a very professional job to date, she is able to touch type as fast as the members can speak, which is no mean feat, with the added bonus of Trevor being able to step up if Jill is ever unwell. It's not often you get a "two for one" bonus.

In April 2024 the Cathedrals' Measure came into force and one of the main provisions of the Measure is that the Cathedral is now a registered Charity and is therefore regulated, not only by the Church Commissioners, but also the Charity Commission. This change of status has resulted in the Friends Trustees having to make appropriate amendments to our own Constitution. The Trustees have an obligation to act at all times in the interests of the Charity including keeping the Constitution under review to ensure that it continues to reflect the conditions under which the Charity operates as well as changes in the law or best practice in charitable governance. You will find, within the Annual Report, a copy of the new Constitution which incorporates the proposed amendments.

The main amendments are to be found in Clause 9 headed Council Officers and Trustees and are as follows:

- a. The Trustees of our Charity will comprise the 5 officers and 4 members nominated to serve at an Annual General Meeting.
- b. The Dean and any members of the Cathedral Chapter nominated by him will participate in Council meetings in an ex officio capacity and will not be Trustees of the Charity.

It has become increasingly difficult for many charities to recruit Trustees and we have, in line with other charities, made provision for Trustees at the expiry of their initial 3 year term to stand for election for a further 2 terms each of 3 years as opposed to the one further term at present.

The only other amendment to which I would specifically draw your attention is Clause 7 which clarifies when membership of the Charity is terminated.

The proposed amended Constitution requires the approval of not less than two thirds of those present and voting at a properly constituted General Meeting, which in this case, is the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 1 June 2025.

Your Trustees commend these amended proposals to you and if adopted they will take effect immediately.

Graham Smith  
March 2025





# THE FRIENDS OF TRURO CATHEDRAL

## FRIENDS FESTIVAL DAY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 1st June 2025

### Programme

**10.00am** Sung Eucharist

**12.30pm** Buffet lunch in the Chapter House

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### 2.00pm AGM

#### Agenda

Opening Prayer

Apologies for absence

Minutes of Previous AGM Sunday 26th May 2024

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Presentation and acceptance of Accounts for 2024

Appointment of Auditor

Adoption of amended Constitution

Election of Officers and new Council members,

A nomination form is included in this Report.

Closing Prayer

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### 2.30pm Speaker

**Mr Donovan Gardner MBE**

**3.15pm** Refreshments and questions

**4.00pm** Choral Evensong



# Friends of Truro Cathedral

## Minutes of AGM 26th May 2024

**Opening Prayer.** A special prayer dating back to 1936 for Truro Cathedral and read by the Dean.

### **Election of President**

Dean Simon was nominated for the position of President.

Proposed: Angela Hare

Seconded: Graham Smith

The nomination was accepted unanimously.

**In accordance with the Friends Constitution the new President took over as Chairman of the AGM.**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Mary Pett, David and Jean Shearlock, David and Ann Werry, Lesley Vingoe, Graham Ratcliffe, Ivor and Jennifer Hicks, Anne Cresswell, Maureen Ward, Peter Hewson, Stephen Tucker, David and Margaret Adams, Elizabeth Lloyd, Charles Butchart, Roberta Evans, Robin Sellwood.

### **Minutes of Previous AGM Sunday 21st May 2023**

The Minutes had been included in the Friends Annual Report circulated to members. They were accepted as correct and signed.

### **Matters Arising**

The President noted a reference in the Report to the repairs to St Mary's Aisle. He updated the current situation announcing that the Aisle would be expected to reopen next month (June). He thanked the Friends for all the help and support which had been given to bring the project to its conclusion.

### **Chairman's Report**

This is my last event 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 steps down as Membership Secretary but stays on as ordinary member.

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.

### **Special Report on Amendments to Friends Constitution**

The provisions set out in The Cathedrals Measure 2021 are now in force which means the Cathedral is now a Registered Charity and as such is now regulated not only by the Church Commissioners but also the Charity Commission. This change means that the Friends will of necessity need to make some amendments to their own Constitution. Richard Lingham and Ian Hare have agreed to produce a new draft Constitution which can then be put to the AGM next year for approval before submission to the Charity Commission.

In order to be compliant with the new rules Council have agreed to institute the following changes to the membership of Council.

- a) The Dean will be an ex officio member of Council but not a trustee.
- b) The Dean may appoint 2 members of Chapter to serve on the Council again as ex officio members and not as trustees.
- c) As the Dean and 2 members of Chapter will not have Trustee responsibility, they will not have the authority to vote.

### **Presentation & Acceptance of Accounts for 2023**

Income was down by nearly £2000 on last year, mainly due to a reduction in legacies and donations. Fund raising income was up, as was interest received on our CBF account.

Office costs were up by nearly £200. A large cost this year was £248 for printing membership forms.

The AGM report was over £200 more this year because of printing £251 and postage £150.

Fund raising costs were up by over £500, but this was in line with the increase in fund raising income.

We have paid over £26,000 to Chapter this year, £10,000 for the repair of St. Mary's Aisle roof (in addition to the £10,000 donated last year). These repairs have now been completed. £4,000 for new chairs, and £11,605 for a new fire alarm system.

Summary: We should be very proud of ourselves for having financially supported Chapter so well and still maintained our funds at a comfortable level of £12,666. The Accounts were accepted unanimously.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

The nomination of Paul Arthur to continue as auditor was accepted unanimously.

### **AGM May 2024 - Friends Council Elections**

#### **Chairman/Council Member - Graham David Smith**

Proposed by: Stuart Evans

Seconded by: Anthony Robathan

#### **Membership Secretary/Council Member - Michael Cockeram**

Proposed by: Ian Hare

Seconded by: Graham Smith

#### **Council Member Second Term - Angela Hare**

Proposed by: Deirdre Neale

Seconded by: Richard Lingham

#### **Treasurer/Council Member - Martin Welton**

Proposed by: Angela Hare

Seconded by: Richard Lingham

#### **Vacancy: Secretary**

All nominations were confirmed by the membership present.

**The Meeting closed with a prayer.**





# Fundraising Report April 2025

I do hope this reports finds all members well and expect many will have booked their summer holidays. Let's hope that those who are not venturing abroad find the sunshine.

In my report last year I mentioned that the fundraising team were collecting old, foreign and obsolete coins and notes. It was an arduous task sorting them all and the amount raised was £2,457. We thank those who so generously gave to this appeal.

I refer you to the Treasurer's Report should you wish to know how much each event raised in 2024 which included the outing to Buckland Abbey on 2 May, the evening stroll with Bert Biscoe on 6 June, the annual River Cruise on 21 August, the outing to Breage and Helston churches on 22 October and the Beetle Drive on 27 November.

The first two events of 2025 were talks by Guy English and Dr Michael Tedder. Guy spoke about the Holy Wells of Cornwall and Michael Tedder Celebrating Bishop Walter Frere CR. Both talks were very interesting and well supported. The combined total raised was approximately £1250 and we thank both speakers. Fundraising team members baked delicious cakes which were served with coffee and tea after the talks.

The fundraising team have organised a programme of events for 2025 that we hope will be well received and are as follows:

**Friday 6 June – Music for A Summer's Evening** featuring The City of Truro Male Choir. A glorious concert conducted by Russell Pascoe. Doors open at 6.30pm with the performance commencing at 7.00pm. Venue: The Cathedral Chapter House. Tickets at £15 (to include light refreshments) will be on sale at the beginning of May.

**Wednesday 23 July – Coach Outing to Saltram House, Plymouth.** The coach will depart from NCP car park, St Clement Street, at 0915 am and depart Saltram at 1600 hrs. We anticipate that the coach will arrive back in Truro at 1800 hrs. For National Trust Members entry will be free and for non-National Trust Members £14.25. Tickets at £30 cover the cost of coach travel only. There is no formal programme planned. Booking for this visit opens on 14 May.

**Tuesday 9 September – Annual River Cruise.** Moyana will depart from Truro Town Quay at 1730 and return to Truro Town Quay at 2030. Ticket price is £23 which will include a pasty. The boat will cruise to St Mawes and view Place Manor, St Anthony's Lighthouse and if time allows Moyana will sail up the Penryn River to Flushing Quay. Please note that the cruise is taking place slightly later in the year as it was the only date available to leave and return to Truro Quay.

**Wednesday 26 November – Quiz Night.** 6.00-9.30pm in the Cathedral Chapter House. More details to follow.

**The Friends Coffee Mornings** take place on the second Wednesday of every month in the Cathedral Chapter House from 10.00 until 11.30. All are very welcome to share in the fellowship and friendship offered by the Friends.

In October we were all saddened by the sudden death of Jenny Skinnard a well loved and respected member of the Fundraising Team. She is greatly missed.

Mard Sellwood, who has been a long serving fundraising team member, retired at Christmas and we thank her for her dedication and hard work.

At the beginning of the year we were pleased to welcome Gillian and Trevor Wright to the Fundraising Team and they have already made a valuable contribution.

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.org.uk> You can reserve a ticket for the above events by phoning 01872 274986 and listening to the message or from the Friends table after the Sunday Morning Eucharist or by emailing [events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk)

Angela Hare  
*Chair of Social and Fundraising Committee*

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





# Treasurer's Report

## Year Ended 31st December 2024

### **Income**

Income was down on last year by nearly £3000. The main reason being that no legacies were received in 2024 (£8278 in 2023). However, we did receive a donation of £1000 from Matthew Curtis in memory of his mother Jean. Other factors helping to reduce the shortfall in income were Fund Raising up by over £3600 and AGM lunches over £700.

### **Expenditure**

Expenditure was up on 2023 by nearly £1200. The main reasons being the cost of the AGM lunches at £873 and Fund Raising costs up by £471, this hardly surprising considering Fund Raising income was considerably higher. The individual activities are listed with their relative profits. The overall profit for the year being £6925 against £3734 in 2023. Well done Angela Hare and her team.

### **Grants to Chapter**

Apart from our grant of £500 to The Flower Guild, the only grant this year was £217 for parts for the repair of the dishwasher in the Chapter House. This was paid to our Chairman Graham Smith who kindly carried out the repair himself, therefore saving Chapter £2000 for a new dishwasher. Thank you Graham.

### **Summary**

We have increased our funds by £11,190 in the year and are in a good position to support Chapter in any priority expenditure they feel is necessary.

Martin Welton  
*Treasurer*  
February 2025

## Membership Secretary's Report

At the time of writing (March 2025), we have 522 members on our database, including 10 new members who have joined us since the last AGM. Sadly, we have lost 5 members.

Thank you for the support of all our members throughout the past year.

Mike Cockeram  
*Membership Secretary*  
March 2025

# 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 current numbers for Lay Assistants currently are 24 active, 13 Emeritus and 4 Stood Down. There are 8 LAs in the A and C Teams with 7 in the B team, 2 LAs at the Sunday 8.00 am and 4 in the Sunday evensong team. Plus, we have members of the congregation who help with collections especially at the busy Christmas and Easter Services.

We have welcomed two new Lay Assistants into the Guild recently, Paul and Emma Goldsworthy whom many of you will know. We said thank you and goodbye to Robin Sellwood, one of most long-standing Lay Assistants who has now retired from the Guild.

We have provided cover for 13 funerals than in the last 12 months including the high-profile funeral of James Henderson, the aid-worker who was killed in the war in Ukraine.

You may have noticed the new number blocks down either side of the cathedral's central aisle during Sunday morning Eucharists. These mark where a Lay Assistant should start do their part of the collection. The smart new ones were made by Adam Birchall's son Joe who was thanked at the AGM by being made an honorary Lay Assistant.

Christmas services were well attended with congregational numbers back to where they were pre-pandemic.

The Guild had it's AGM in January which was attended by the Cathedral's Chief Operating Officer Sean O'Neill as a guest for a questions and answers session.

The Guild had its annual Dinner at Epiphany House back in the spring last year. The food and surroundings were excellent as usual. The evening started with drinks on the veranda followed by a tour of the House.

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 months.

Adam Starr

*Warden*

February 2025

# Report from Truro Cathedral Servers and Communion Assistants

## Friends of Truro Cathedral AGM Sunday 1st June 2025

In 2024 we were all saddened by the deaths of two of our very loyal servers. Sally Stephens died in February and John James – universally known as J J - died on 4th August last year. A dozen of our current servers were in procession at Sally's funeral as a mark of the respect and affection we held for her.

J J started serving in 2008 and was a server until he stood down in 2019 for both health and age reasons. He is best remembered as a regular server at the 8.00am Sunday Communion services at which he had his own inimitable style of reading the Epistle – at speed and with his own accent. His Funeral was conducted by Canon Alan Bashforth and the address delivered by the Rt. Revd. Graham James, former Bishop of Norwich and Bishop of St Germans here in Truro.

Unfortunately, our numbers have diminished due to illness, family circumstances and career changes. We have gained one new Server, Krisztina Bartus, who is an experienced server at Exeter Cathedral but now has a daughter in the Girls' Choir at Truro Cathedral.

## Rededication of Servers.

The Annual Rededication of Servers took place at Evensong in May 2024. This year, and as suggested by the Dean, the Rededication will take place during the 10.00am Eucharist on Sunday 11th May 2025.

We are proud to have supported worship at the Cathedral at:

- 53 Sunday Eucharists and Christmas Day
- 52 Friday 11 am BCP
- At least 104 Midweek 9.00am Communion services.
- 28 Evensongs (Festival and Saint's Days)
- 16 Eucharists (Festival and Saint's Days)
- 17 other Services including Diocesan Confirmations, Ordinations, Remember our Child, Nine Lessons and Carols, Advent Procession, various Civic Services and Installation of Canon Sue as Succentor and also the Installation of Clive Hogger as Archdeacon of Cornwall. A particularly special service was on 14th June last year when St Mary's Aisle was rededicated at a Service jointly celebrated by the Rt. Revd. Graham James and the Dean, the Very Reverend Simon Robinson. February 2025

We have also served at over a dozen funerals. There have been three military funerals or memorials. Sadly we have served at funerals or memorials for a number of members of our congregation, including, Sally Stephens, John James, Jenny Skinnard, Brenda Whitney, Elizabeth Ridley, Tim Russ and Gill Yelland.

The variety of services with different choreography, seating, processions etc. mean that as servers we have to be alert and watchful at all times, preferably having read the instructions beforehand!

A recent addition was the Epiphany Nine Lessons and Carols Service, where servers donned vestments to carry in the Gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. We would have worn crowns, but unfortunately the crowns were a little too small for comfort.

One very interesting development has been the transition, or even some might say the elevation of Gospel Clerk to Sub Deacon. Sitting and standing next to the President does indeed cut out the to-ing and fro-ing in our previous duties and standing at the High Altar gives a very special perspective to the service.

For our serving teams it is not just a matter of turning up on a Sunday morning. We do meet with clergy in order to plan ahead for all services so that we can distribute duties as fairly as possible. Due to our diminished numbers, we are blessed that our serving team are so willing, flexible and loyal.

Peter Hewson *and* Beverly Hulme  
February 2025







**THE FRIENDS OF  
TRURO CATHEDRAL**

**NOMINATION FORM 2025**

I wish to nominate:

Name: .....

As a member of the Executive Council in the position of  
CHAIRMAN / SECRETARY / TREASURER / COUNCIL MEMBER  
(indicate as appropriate)

Proposer Signature .....

Proposer Name (PRINT) .....

Seconder Signature .....

Seconder Name (PRINT) .....

*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 .....

Date .....

Please return this completed form, by 7 May, to:  
Gillian Wright, The Secretary, The Friends of Truro Cathedral,  
c/o The Friends Office, The Old Cathedral School, Cathedral Close  
Truro TR1 2FQ

or by email to: [secretary@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk)

## Organ Recitals

*The 2025 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 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:-

<https://www.friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk>

*Should you need to contact us please email on:-*

[info@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk)

[events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk)

[membership@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:membership@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk)

[secretary@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsoftrurocathedral.org.uk)

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 Sunday 1st June 2025 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 Close, Truro TR1 2FQ, registered Charity Number 1075211 the sum of £....(for a specific sum) or the residue (**or** a ....share of the residue) of my Estate.

