

Friends of
WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL RECORD 2025

NUMBER 94

Friends of Winchester Cathedral 2025

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Friends' Prayer

Most glorious Lord of life,
Who gave to your disciples the precious name of friends:
accept our thanks for this Cathedral Church,
built and adorned to your glory
and alive with prayer
and grant that its company of Friends
may so serve and honour you in this life
that they come to enjoy the fullness of your promises
within the eternal fellowship of your grace;
and this we ask for your name's sake. Amen.

Welcome

Looking back over my time as a Trustee and Chairman of the Friends, it's astounding what you, the members, have achieved in those fifteen years. You were asked to fund the renovation and repair of some of our finest medieval glass as part of the wider Cathedral Appeal at the time: you delivered over £800,000. When we launched a smaller appeal in 2022 for £100,000 to help fund the renovation of the organ, the target had been reached within six weeks with a top-up from a legacy to total £400,000.

Chapter has come to rely on the good-natured Friends who always deliver when asked.

Perhaps the most recent transformational project funded by the Friends has been the installation of cameras to allow the live-streaming of our services on the internet. At the click of a mouse, thousands of people all over the world, as well as those unable to attend here at home, have been sharing prayer and music with us here in Winchester. It's not unknown for overseas visitors to ask our Cathedral guides if there's any chance of meeting the 'stars' of Chapter whom they've grown so accustomed to seeing on their screens.

Personally, as a former school chorister myself and a devotee of church music, I have been particularly pleased that we fund the Girls' Choir in its entirety and also support the Musical Foundation in other ways. Another delight is that the Friends fund all the flowers that make up the wonderful floral arrangements which decorate the Cathedral so marvellously throughout the year.

We are what it says on the tin – Friends – and it's why our monthly speaking events and coffee mornings are so well-attended



and happy occasions. It's nothing less than uplifting to watch as coach loads of smiling Friends set off from Winchester on the holidays that Julie Adams has so efficiently organised for them over the past few years.

None of this, of course, would happen without the work of my fellow Trustees who are exceptional people.

Lucy Hutchin leads a remarkable office team with Leisl Porter and Lesley Mead at her side. Lucy's dedication to the Cathedral and the Friends is awesome and anything I might have achieved as Chairman would have been impossible without her.

Finally, a word about Dean Catherine who retired last Easter. We wish her well and thank her for her kindness, her support, her sense of humour and her absolute charm. Above everything, as a superb dean, Catherine loved her congregation, her hundreds of volunteers, her fellow clergy and the place we all love, Winchester Cathedral. She has been a star.



Bruce Parker









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Joint Editors: Bruce Parker and Lucy Hutchin
Images: Thanks to Simon Newman, Jim Pascoe, Luxmuralis and Hampshire Chronicle
Design and print: talkdesignandprint.com

Interim Dean

‘The past is a foreign country’, even the state of play in the Cathedral eight years ago when I last wrote this message. In that piece, optimism was the resounding note, as I likened the life of the Cathedral to a train steaming ahead.

If we are a train, there might be some looking with some trepidation at the tracks. The Cathedral has been under a Bishop’s Review, which found ‘significant failings’ needing to be addressed. Are we really still on course? And that question fits with wider concerns about the Nation. We are undoubtedly less secure now than we were eight years ago, and less wealthy.

While not seeking to minimise the lessons to be learned from the past, let me offer you reasons for our community to be hopeful.

In times of instability, things that are solid and enduring prove their worth. In May we held a service to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. As much energy and publicity had been put into the 75th anniversary, we expected a quiet occasion this time around, not unlike an enhanced Evensong. In the event, many hundreds of all ages filled the nave, wishing to celebrate the victory of 1945.

Another cause for consolation is that our past actions bear lasting fruit, not only the victories of war but acts of generosity such as the substantial contribution made by the Friends to the restoration of the organ. Though the works were completed for last Christmas, many of us marvel at how clear and smooth the organ now sounds. That is a gift which cannot be taken away.

Another act of generosity, from outside the Friends, is leading to the completion of Martin Jennings’ memorial sculpture of Jane Austen, to be unveiled in the Inner Close in October.



This is another way in which we can face the future more confidently, by drawing on the good example of others as they in their time faced constraint and the need to work hard to achieve results.

You may remember Jane Austen’s famous description of her work as being done with a fine brush on a "little bit (not two inches wide) of ivory". And what she did herself, she commended to her readers. The female heroes of her novels find a way, despite the very constrained roles and expectations of their day, to flourish.

I’m sure that our times are no better or worse than Austen’s. For most of her life, England was at war with France; yet she chose to focus on what lay within her grasp and the grasp of her characters. Austen believed that in uncertain and constrained times what mattered most was human virtue: virtue meant that things would come right in even the tightest of corners.

Austen’s faith in virtue was ground in the Christian faith that goodness aligns us with a Higher Power. The Cathedral shares her faith and therefore takes confidence that nothing can defeat our determination to do good and to stand for good whatever challenges we may face.

Roly Riem

Dean Catherine Ogle

Nobody quite knew what to expect when the first female Dean of Winchester was announced eight years ago. The post itself wasn't new to Catherine as she'd previously been Dean of Birmingham. As the tributes below testify, she quickly became a much-loved and popular leader over her eight years as dean. The Friends wish her well in her retirement with her husband, Robin, in Yorkshire.

How can any of us ever forget Dean Catherine's smile? The warmth of her welcome, whether you were watching a service online, present in the Cathedral or just seeing her in the Close, gladdened your heart. You felt that you were the only person she was talking to, that she was truly delighted to see you and that she wanted you to share in the love of Jesus Christ. How lucky we were to have Catherine as our Dean for eight years and at the most challenging of times. Throughout Covid when the Church of England decided (in its wisdom) to close all the churches, she and Chapter, the Choir and organists, and the virgers gave us an alternative in our homes, through livestreaming the services without any congregation present. It was remarkable and made us all feel we were there partaking in the service. Nor was it easy for her to navigate a path when the former Bishop of Winchester stepped back from his role and subsequently retired.

As Chairman of the Cathedral Council until it was abolished in 2023, I got to know Catherine well. We met at least once a month and, of course, had our quarterly meetings with the full Council, where we endeavoured to act as the 'critical friend' of the Cathedral. Catherine always listened, as many will have seen at Community Days



or at the Friends AGM. She responded positively to questions and always welcomed them. I found her easy to talk to and discuss things with, even when we were talking about difficult issues.

In my view she was a wonderful Dean and I sincerely believe that the Cathedral, the congregation and the wider community were very lucky to have had her. I know I will miss her but I am sure she and Robin will have a happy retirement together with their son and wider family. I wish them lots of happiness coupled with huge thanks.

Jean Ritchie KC
Cathedral Counsellor



Dean Catherine Ogle

Canon Roly Riem's tribute to Dean Catherine and her husband Robin at Palm Sunday Evensong

May I turn to Robin first? Robin is a man of few words and it's easy to overlook what he's done. But Robin has been a linchpin in this community, especially on the hospitality front, in the Cathedral and behind the scenes.

But apart from practical commitments, Robin's chief role has been to be Catherine's rock – without which Catherine simply would have been unable to do what she's done. Robin, may I say, I hope without offending your political sensibilities: you have been the Dennis Thatcher of this Cathedral – and you have done it without requiring gin or, frankly, much alcohol at all.

And so to Catherine, first as a preacher and teacher. Perhaps the most important thing about anyone's preaching is their preaching voice. And I would call Catherine's 'homely'. The sermons I have most appreciated have been those where she's stitched the scriptures into the fabric of everyday life, and into a rich and happy tapestry of gratefully recalled events. She's extremely easy to listen to and the truths she offers have the glow of wisdom. Her sermons strike home because they offer welcome and winsome good news.

Which brings me to Catherine outside the pulpit. Those who have written to her offer the persistent pairing of being warm and kind, with frequent mention of her smile.

There's a management tool we use in the Cathedral called the 'Insights Discovery Test'. It tells you about the energies we lead with. There are four types, and you won't be surprised to hear that Catherine leads with 'Sunny Yellow Energy', which is all about positivity, enthusiasm, and creativity. This is tempered by her sincerity and graciousness towards others, whom she reads acutely and treats with great patience and good humour.





Dean Catherine talks to Bruce Parker at a farewell event for the staff

It's no accident that many have found safe haven here, when in the world they have felt excluded, ignored and judged. This results from the openness of Catherine's warm heart and her wide Christian vision.

Catherine has encouraged us to grow together in Christ as One Cathedral, stretching our sense of promise and possibility with her own artistic and graphic skills. She's reached out in partnership with others, including our friends of other faiths.

We've been developing creative platforms by which the Cathedral plays a part in a bigger world, aided by the hard work of her loyal Chief Operating Officer, Alison Evans. The 'Whales in the Nave' are the most recent example, where we embraced the sea, conservation, music, art, family adventure, romance, a university and more besides.

The role of a cathedral dean in recent years has become increasingly more demanding. Deans straddle the old world, the spiritual leaders and public face of the community, and the new world where they are CEOs, with oversight of all the key players and systems in the organisation. There are a stack of balls to keep in the air, and Catherine has juggled these faithfully for eight years here, after over six as Dean of Birmingham.

The pressures of the last year or two have been costly for both Catherine and Robin but what I have seen coming out of Catherine has been unfailingly good and honest. She has maintained a prayerful regard for the welfare of others and the community she serves. And to me and many others, we see in this a vivid example of self-sacrificial Christian love.

Catherine's position will soon be taken up by someone else and they will be grateful for her legacy. They will build on the gifts and graces we've so much respected and admired in her, a humble integrity, a sense of fun, a belief that the deepest truths also embrace the widest circle, and a sense that our ministries, whatever their occasional pomp and circumstance, occupy a very small slice of the amazing history of this Cathedral.

Never a Dull Moment...

The Cathedral's Chief Operating Officer, Alison Evans reflects on the year past and what lies ahead. "Working in a Cathedral is never dull," she writes.



This last year has been no exception and sometimes because of structural events that we'd prefer not to happen. The progress that was welcome was the completion of the estates masterplan which has given us a solid foundation on which to make decisions about where to direct resources and funds over the next twenty years. One of the most important aspects of this was the clear recommendation about the future of the Deanery complex of buildings, including Prior's Hall.

The other significant event was the receipt from the Cathedral Architect of her Quinquennial Report, a weighty and comprehensive document, of which the summary alone was a hundred pages long. This didn't contain any major unexpected issues concerning the cathedral structure, but did confirm the pressing attention required for the repairs to the south nave roof. Interestingly, the report also identified for the first time the potential underlying causes of the persistent drainage problems along the north elevation. The impact of this can be seen in the bronze disease on the memorials along the inner north nave aisle wall.

By way of contrast, the 'unwelcome' event in autumn 2024 was a small piece of historic mortar from a south clerestory window, about the size of a cricket ball, which fell off (thankfully overnight) and landed in the nave. The height of the clerestory entailed the erection of scaffold to give access for the stonemasons: the view from the top when I climbed up to see the damage was quite something. We took the opportunity to check the condition of all the high-level masonry by flying a drone down the nave. This is a marvellous example of how modern technology has positively transformed aspects of conservation practice.

Looking at other matters of the working life at Winchester over late 2024 and into 2025, we were thrilled to have launched a partnership with Messums Gallery who facilitated works by the highly-regarded sculptor Laurence Edwards for an exhibition in the autumn. Then we were straight into the Christmas Market, hit on two key weekend days by storms. It was the first time in memory of closing the Market for an entire day because of adverse weather. That aside, the Market was fully-subscribed by traders and its popularity felt undiminished, with weekend entry queues snaking as far as the High Street.

In February, the second Messums artist, Tessa Campbell Fraser, installed her sculpture of three half-scale sperm whales. It is not uncommon that the sheer volume of the nave space is not necessarily appreciated by artists. So the inclusion of the series of diaphanous silk banners and the special lighting were both essential parts of the composition to create sufficient impact. The programme of events built around 'Whales' was very successful, with several sea-shanty concerts and a mixed music/theatre/poetry performance by our sponsors, Southampton University, particular highlights. It was gratifying to see so many people, especially students, who had never previously visited the cathedral.

This year cannot pass without mentioning the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. The Austen season launched with a sell-out Regency Ball in May, another new venture for the Cathedral. There were over 400 enthusiastic, costumed participants, learning the appropriate steps in sequence down the nave under the tuition of a caller and live band (see page 35).



“A Steep Learning Curve”



Oliver Jessop describes his first year in the post as Cathedral Archaeologist as a fascinating journey into the archaeology of the Cathedral and one which is challenging and exciting at the same time.

One of the largest projects that my team and I have embarked upon is to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment, which will for the first time synthesise all previous archaeological investigations into a single document. The intention is to re-assess antiquarian and modern excavations, historic building surveys, architectural research and artefactual remains into a narrative text and comprehensive gazetteer.



Internal graffiti



Musket impact scars

An archaeological survey is now underway to record the south nave aisle, marking the beginning of a twelve-year phased programme of repairs to the historic fabric. In close collaboration with the stonemasonry team, we’ve uncovered remarkable features including medieval masons’ marks, written and incised graffiti, evidence of previous structural alterations and even impact scars from musket balls attributed to the Civil War. This first phase has been crucial in establishing the most effective methodology for future work and required the temporary closure of Curle’s Passage to allow the scaffolding to be installed.



Curle's Passage

Another key project this year was the completion of the meticulous 18-month conservation of the Cathedral font, dated 1158. This included the recording of its individual structural components and the lead lining, making use of high-resolution photogrammetry. Towards the end of the restoration, I discovered a carved stone in the crypt with an identical design to two of the legs of the font, that has been interpreted as forming one of the original legs – sadly not enough remained for it to be considered for re-instatement.



Recording the font's components



Stone fragments in the crypt

To mark the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, an archaeological excavation was undertaken on the lawn in front of No. 9 The Close, in preparation for a stone plinth to support the new Jane Austen statue. Two concentric circles of spoil were hand dug, but no archaeological remains were unearthed, apart from a mixed assemblage of residual shards of pottery, including fragments of green-glazed medieval floor tiles.

Further archaeological monitoring during the installation of the Pavilion in the café garden, again, only produced re-deposited artefactual remains from the Roman period to the present day.

Overall, it's been a dynamic year, and it remains a privilege to work in such a unique and inspiring setting and to share the various archaeological discoveries with all who cherish and support the Cathedral.



Excavating foundations for the Jane Austen statue

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The Music Foundation

Along with the Interim Director of Music, our two Sub-Organists and other dedicated supporters, the Cathedral choirs have had a hugely successful year.

The Cathedral Choir

Andrew Lucas, Interim Director of Music

Music is an integral part of the worshipping community and the spiritual and cultural life of Winchester Cathedral. The choir performs a diverse repertoire that spans from Gregorian chant to contemporary compositions, reinforcing the Cathedral's role as a prominent centre for music within the diocese.

Liturgical music is the cornerstone of the Cathedral's music tradition. Over the past year, the choirs have contributed to every significant service, including Remembrance, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost, ordinations, and various feast days. The children in both of our choirs demonstrate exceptional dedication and are wonderfully supported by our lay clerks, the two sub-organists, Joshua Stephens and Oliver Morrell and our Choirs Administrator, Sara Wilson-King. This year, we welcomed nine new boy choristers and our girls have begun their training and gradual integration into the choirs throughout the year. Additionally, we have successfully recruited six new lay clerks who will have commenced their roles by September, ensuring that the choir stalls will be fully occupied.



Beyond their liturgical duties, the choirs participated in three Christmas concerts held in Odiham, Oxford and the Cathedral. The choirs also performed at the Southern Cathedrals Festival in Salisbury in July.

Community Engagement Choirs

The other choirs at the Cathedral, including the Chamber Choir, Nave Choir, Junior Choir and Youth Choir, have diligently contributed to several services and concerts throughout the year (see page 19). Our Cathedral Crescendo programme has expanded music outreach to local schools, providing them with termly performance opportunities at the Cathedral. We plan to further develop this initiative in the coming year.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, we aim to enhance our music offering by:

- Revitalising the choirs' concert tour strategy, beginning with the boys and lay clerks in 2025.
- Improving the quality of sound in streamed services with financial assistance from the Friends.
- Exploring recording possibilities and new avenues for increasing the choirs' exposure.
- Seeking opportunities to extend our musical reach beyond the Cathedral into the diocese and further afield.

The support of the Friends is highly valued and enables us to uphold the rich tradition of English choral music, which profoundly impacts those who experience it first-hand.



Junior Choir members



The Girls' Choir

Joshua Stephens, Sub-Organist

The Girl Choristers have been fantastic throughout the last academic year and it has been a privilege to direct and lead them since September 2024. Throughout the year, the girls have broadened their repertoire, exploring a rich selection of music from many musical periods, especially early works by Palestrina and Gibbons (whose anniversaries are this year), and later works by Imogen Holst and Judith Weir. Their performances have been outstanding, with highlights including the annual Advent Procession, Christmas Foundation Concert, Cathedral carol services, Britten *Ceremony of Carols*, Holy Week and Easter services. Additionally, memorable occasions included singing at both Dean Catherine's and Bishop David's leaving services, a charity carol service at Odiham Parish Church with celebrity guest Phil Spencer and a Christmas concert at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford with Sir John Rutter.

At the end of term, the Girl Choristers celebrated their achievements by selecting the music for their final service together as a cohort – Stanford's *Evening Service in A* and Parry *Blest Pair of Sirens* – which was followed by their end-of-year picnic with families, lay clerks and organists. The afternoon included many friendly games of rounders and provided an opportunity to say farewell to leaving girls.

It continues to be a privilege to support the musical development and growth of the Girl Choristers, facilitating worship in our magnificent Cathedral for the communities it serves. Their determination and commitment are inspiring and we look forward to many more opportunities in the year ahead, including welcoming new members and their families into our community. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the Friends, whose generosity makes much of this possible.



Sir John Rutter with the choristers

Youth and Nave Choir

Oliver Morrell, Sub-Organist

Youth Choir

It has been a delight to lead the Youth Choir in its first year. We launched in September, with a loyal following of members from the Junior Choir. As the year progressed, it has been wonderful to welcome several brand-new faces. Going into next year, we are looking forward to growing the choir even more. The Youth Choir is an exciting opportunity for teenagers who would otherwise never get the chance to sing at Winchester Cathedral.



Youth choir practice

We have enjoyed contributing to choral services when the other choirs are away. I must commend the group for confidently facing the challenge of singing as a small ensemble in a big space. As well as several Evensong services, the choir has sung at the Scout Service for St George's Day and the 'Big Nativity' just before Christmas (where we performed alongside the well-established Junior Choir). We have enjoyed maintaining close links with the Junior Choir and look forward to really embedding the Youth Choir as a unique and important part of the music at Winchester Cathedral.



Shrove Tuesday winners

Nave Choir

It has been a great pleasure to also have responsibility for the Nave Choir. As the un-auditioned voluntary choir, it is a key part of our mission to have a range of opportunities for people to sing at Winchester. The choir sings at one service per term, with rehearsals in the weeks beforehand. This year, we have focused on building a loyal and consistent following for each of our termly services. It has been rewarding to see the size of the choir increase at services – from 13 members in November 2024, to 19 in June 2025.

Going forward, we look forward to welcoming many more singers from Winchester and further afield. We will restart in the autumn term with two open rehearsals. If you (or someone you know) is interested in joining a friendly and enthusiastic group, without any pressure to audition or commit to rehearsals every week, then please do get in touch. Full details are on the Cathedral website.



Choristers with the BBC's Pudsey

The Southern Cathedrals Festival

Winchester Cathedral's sub-organist, Joshua Stephens, reports on the Southern Cathedrals Festival at Salisbury Cathedral which he says was 'a memorable celebration of choral excellence and collaboration'.



The festivities began with an impressive come-and-sing event, featuring all of Salisbury Cathedral's choirs conducted by our friend Sir John Rutter. Winchester's Girls' Choir and lay clerks joined forces with Salisbury's girl choristers and lay clerks and Chichester Cathedral Choir to sing a recorded Choral Evensong for BBC Radio 3. Under the baton of David Halls, the service was nothing short of epic, with highlights including Harris's *Bring us, O Lord* which was beautifully paced and deeply moving. The organ voluntary, William Lloyd Webber's *Benedictus* showcased the Salisbury organ's rich colours, expertly demonstrated by John Challenger. You can listen to the service on BBC Sounds.

Winchester's boy choristers and lay clerks travelled to Salisbury to sing Mattins, featuring a stunning selection of music, including Gibbons' *Short Service* and Poulenc's *Exultate Deo*. The Poulenc piece, inspired by Palestrina's *Exultate Deo* was particularly dramatic and captivating. That evening, the senior choristers and lay clerks from all three cathedral choirs performed a concert of Palestrina and Gibbons, accompanied by the Rose Consort of Viols. Conducted by Andrew Lucas and Charles Harrison, the concert was an exquisite showcase of these composers' works in their anniversary year, including Palestrina's *Missa Christi Munera* and *Sicut Cervus*, as well as Gibbons' *See, see the word is incarnate* and his joyous *O clap your hands*.

The festival reached its climax with the Festival Eucharist sung by Winchester and Salisbury boy choristers, along with all the lay clerks and Chichester Cathedral choir. The performance of Flor Peter's *Missa Festiva* was so grand and spirited that we're convinced it was heard within a ten-mile radius. The spectacular grand finale concert with all three cathedral choirs performing Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, accompanied by the Hannover Band, provided a fitting and exhilarating conclusion to an action-packed festival.

Our choristers and lay clerks enjoyed every moment of each event and we are incredibly grateful to the Salisbury team for their warm hospitality. We look forward to next year's festival at Chichester Cathedral, continuing this wonderful tradition of musical partnership and celebration.

Senior Cathedral Appointments

Canon Julian Poppleton Cathedral Chaplain



Canon Julian Poppleton is certainly no stranger to our community. He grew up in Hampshire and was at school here in Winchester, The Pilgrims' School followed by Winchester College.

He and his wife, Libby, have a shared love of music and their two grown-up children, Sam and Alice, are both professional musicians. At Durham University, he ran his college chapel choir and has been involved in choral music throughout his life. "I've been fortunate enough to sing, broadcast and record inspiring music in many beautiful settings and to diverse audiences," he says. It's not all been church music though: for much of the 1990s, Julian and Libby were part of a dance/jazz band.

Andrew Lucas Interim Director of Music



Andrew had been Master of Music at St Albans Cathedral for nearly three decades before travelling south to become Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral. For many years before that, he'd been both organ scholar and assistant director of music at St Paul's in London.

When the time came to stand down at St Albans, he had visions of spending a good deal of his retirement in the south of Portugal. "After those 27 years at St Albans, where I'd had a wonderful career, I did feel ready to retire completely," he says. "When I was invited to come to Winchester, however, it was as if I'd had a fire lit under me again."

Andrew is hugely complimentary of our Cathedral choirs but admits he'd had to learn to work with a set of boys who, for various reasons, were younger than those at St Albans where he had a bigger pool of experienced choristers to lead the choir.

Canon Andrew Micklefield Canon Treasurer



Andrew has responsibility for the learning teams and the Cathedral's education work as well as being President of the Guild of Guides and their work of welcome. He is the Chapter Lead for Safeguarding.

Canon Andrew said he'd been really looking forward to becoming part of Winchester Cathedral and its Chapter as Canon Treasurer. His wife, Fiona, is a headteacher working at St Lawrence CE Primary School, Alton – she has been in the school in various roles since 2007. She is passionate, amongst other things, about music in schools and the school is very much 'a singing school'.

A Week in the Life of the Succentor

Lucy Hole's core responsibility is organising and preparing services. With at least three regular daily services, around thirty 'special services' each quarter, and numerous partnerships with schools, charities and local organisations – not to mention countless services over Christmas and Easter – she's certainly kept busy. Lucy is currently training for ministry as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM).



Monday

Clergy Breakfast – valuable chance for Custos and I to touch base with our clergy colleagues over tea and a boiled egg, kindly hosted by the Interim Dean.

Once at the office, after a quick review of the weekend's services, I dive straight into my emails. Today's inbox includes: confirmation from Winchester Diocese regarding an installation service date, a meeting request from the Under Sheriff to discuss Law Sunday and a draft guest list from the Dean's EA for the Chapter and College of Canons' attendance at an upcoming service.

Afternoon – regular weekly 'Service Prep' meeting with Custos and the Canon Treasurer where we meticulously review upcoming services, finalise service instructions against Orders of Service.

Tuesday

Another early start, beginning at The Pilgrims' School, where I'm leading morning assembly.

Theme this week is 'Worthy is the Lamb': cue sheep noises and learning to cheer like a football crowd.

Diary Meeting follows – a weekly chance for each department to check what's coming up and review additions.

A meeting-heavy day: a phone call with the Lord-Lieutenant's office, a meeting with a local charity about a themed Evensong in the autumn, a Zoom with a wedding couple about the details of their service, and a meeting with the RSM from Worthy Down introducing a new key colleague (which reminds me to start work on Remembrance Sunday). I need three monitors to co-ordinate everything.



Wednesday

Morning begins with formatting Orders of Service for some upcoming services. I'm immersed in the ordinations, which involves meticulously piecing together various elements: names and benefices of all the ordinands, involvement of the bishops and archdeacons, processional orders, the preacher's reading choices – lots of to-ing and fro-ing with the diocese. Double-checked I had all the deadlines in my diary for booking the printing, sending it to the proofreaders and distributing the information to ordinands and training incumbents.

Midday, I head across to the Cathedral to sing for the lunchtime Eucharist. Always a pleasure to see one of our supporting clergy leading these services; we had a minute or two to catch up.

The afternoon consists of more formatting, writing a dedication and blessing for an upcoming service, a short meeting with the finance team to discuss some recent invoices, and a quick check-in with the Head Sidesman on the various guest lists and seating plans at play.

Thursday

I set the printer off first thing, letting it run in the background while I tackle other tasks. With the help of the reception desk volunteer, who keeps an eye on the machine for me by topping it up with paper and unclogging the finished tray, I'm able to dedicate focused time to my emails. They include a couple from the Interim Dean updating me on some VIPs attending services, one from the Chaplain making arrangements with a family for a baptism, and a lovely email from one of the online congregants commending a recent service. There are several emails back from proofreaders with suggestions and amendments having looked over my latest Order of Service. My contact at Worthy Down has replied about Remembrance plans, and I've three emails from schools regarding their Christmas plans (yes, I am writing this in June!).

A couple of emails regarding changes to the worship rota: I make a note to send a follow-up regarding the changes to the others it will impact. The worship rota is integral to the functionality of services and, as a live document, I am constantly asking my colleagues to check in with me, so as to keep it up to date.

Friday

A family pops in enquiring about a funeral for their late mother, so I sit with them, lending a supportive ear, answering their questions about some of the practical arrangements. Afterwards, I head to the Cathedral to take all the printed material needed for the weekend. If it's more than I can carry, I often ask the virgers to come and collect it all with a large trolley, but otherwise it's a welcome chance to stretch my legs!

Back at my desk, I focus on getting ahead with other Orders of Service. At any given time, I am working on at least 4-6 services concurrently (and during peak times like Easter/Christmas/Start and End of Year, I have about 10-12 running through my head at once).

I'm cantor at Evensong today, so I pop over in time to prep my music, find my tuning fork, and head to the feretory to robe. Lovely to end the week with a peaceful and reflective service, where I can dedicate time to worship and soak in the beauty of the Cathedral.



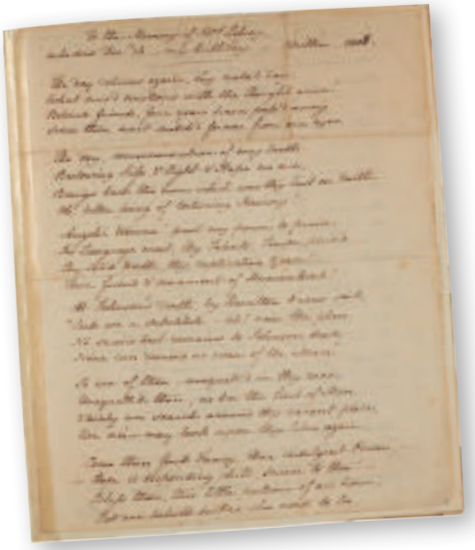
Service sheets ready to go

Exhibiting the Cathedral's most Precious Treasures

The Cathedral's Curator and Librarian, Ellie Swire, reflects on some of the major heritage projects which have taken place in the past year, including the Jane Austen exhibition, conservation of the Queen Mary chair and the application for Museums Accreditation.



The Cathedral's new but temporary Jane Austen exhibition, "Angelic Women", on the mezzanine level of the Kings & Scribes exhibition, opened in May. The exhibition runs until mid-October and includes loans from Chawton House, Jane Austen's House and the Hampshire Records Office, together with the item from the Cathedral's own collections which provided the original inspiration for the exhibition, a manuscript poem written by Jane Austen in memory of her friend, Anne Lefroy. It was gifted to the Cathedral by Jessie Lefroy in 1936.



This is the first time the Cathedral has trialled a temporary exhibition on the mezzanine and preparing for the exhibition was a major learning opportunity for both myself and our Head of Exhibitions and Visitor Experience, Ollie Taylor. Inevitably, a substantial amount of work and coordination was required and we are both very grateful to everyone who supported us and the exhibition along the way.

Displaying Objects

As Curator, part of the pleasure of the exhibition for me is that it has enabled so many more people to see the Austen manuscript poem for themselves. Given the significance and fragility of so many items in the collection, balancing the preservation of

historic objects with public access can often prove difficult, so opportunities to display objects in a safe and controlled environment are important and rewarding.

Much of the work with the Cathedral's collections, however, happens behind the scenes. Research, conservation, cleaning, cataloguing – there is always plenty to do. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends, I am part way through completing the Cathedral's application for Museums Accreditation status, which will help to shape and improve future public access to objects in our historic collections. Meanwhile, when not thinking about Accreditation, I have been working closely with the rest of the Mortuary Chests Project team to plan for the reinterment of the bones.

Queen Mary Chair

The conservation of the Queen Mary chair, meanwhile, is another example of brilliant work which takes place quietly in the background. Our specialist upholstery conservator, Heather Porter, has done a remarkable job in cleaning and completing minor conservation repairs to this very special, if not baffling object – thought to have been used by Queen Mary I during her wedding to Philip of Spain in a ceremony at Winchester Cathedral in 1554.

Covered in beautiful blue velvet, the chair has presented many puzzles only some of which we think we will solve. With work due to be finished by the autumn, it will be a much greater challenge to display such a delicate and sensitive object to the public. Time and careful thinking will be needed, but sharing the story of the chair and its conservation will provide yet another fascinating insight into the very long and rich history of our Cathedral.



The Winchester Spy and his Cathedral Plants

Peter Smithers wasn't exactly a run-of-the-mill child. For years, as a small boy in the 1920s, he lovingly spent every single penny of his pocket money on plants. His passion had a lasting impression on the Cathedral estate.



Image: Hampshire Chronicle

For the greater part of his life, Peter Smithers was mostly in love with one particular plant, the Guernsey Lily, *Nerine Sarniensis*. He was just fourteen in 1928 when he bought his first Guernsey Lily bulbs at the now renowned Hillier's Nursery in Winchester's Romsey Road. Smithers describes the moment in his autobiography: "*I bought three bulbs of Nerine Sarniensis 'Fothergilli Major' at Hillier's garden shop … excited that [they] would bloom just before I went back to Harrow for the autumn term*." From that early beginning, he went on to develop the National Collection of nerines, now housed at Exbury in the New Forest.

While at Harrow School, he had begun an index of every plant and packet of seeds he ever acquired. The number eventually totalled 32,147. Wherever Smithers lived in later life, he created magnificent, award-winning gardens – in Mexico, where he was the naval attaché, in Strasbourg and in Switzerland. This last was described as one of the 500 greatest gardens in the world since the time of the Romans.

All of that alone would be a fascinating and lovely little story. But the plant-loving Smithers was also a full-blown British spy during World War II, working with (Commander) Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond. There's much speculation that Smithers was actually the inspiration behind Ian Fleming's 'Bond books' and, to a large extent, the character of 007 was based on him.

As a spy, Smithers had organised the last-minute escape of British refugees as the Nazis advanced through France; he captured German spies landing in England and was in action in the diplomatic set in wartime Washington.

After the war, he was MP for Winchester for fourteen years and then moved on to lead the Council of Europe as its Secretary-General. An illustrious war career and subsequent distinction as politician and statesman led to a knighthood.

As Winchester's MP, he was, unsurprisingly, much associated with the Cathedral but his particular interest was in its trees; he lived nearby at Colebrook House, one of the city's finest private residences, and he created the adjacent, much-loved Water Close garden.



Smithers' Lime Tree, planted in 1961, now 65 feet high



The handkerchief tree

He was so disappointed, however, with the quality and the layout of trees on the Cathedral estate that he developed an ambitious plan for 'more appropriate' new tree types. Not only did he buy the trees but planted many of them himself in the Cathedral grounds. He was always extremely keen to involve Winchester's senior clergy in his tree project, as illustrated in his letter to Bishop Alwyn Williams in January 1960:

"You may know that with the approval of the Dean and Chapter I have been engaged in tending the existing trees in the Cathedral Close and churchyard and in planting new ones. The Dean and each of the Chapter have 'planted' a tree, so that we now have 'Dean Sykes Plane', 'Bishop Lamplugh's Ash', 'Bishop Lang's Beech', 'Canon Lloyd's Cherry' and 'Canon Money's Handkerchief Tree'. The Head Chorister has planted a lime."

Smithers ends his letter suggesting the bishop himself should plant a 'pendant lime' in 'Paradise', at the east end of the Cathedral. "*A tree is not well and truly planted until it is properly mulched … I shall prepare a good barrow of mulch. Will you kindly consent to tip it on and to declare the lime 'well and truly planted'?*" The bishop duly obliged.

There are over three hundred trees on the Cathedral estate, all of which are managed and monitored by the Cathedral gardeners to check they are thriving and, importantly, no danger to the public.

Stand in the Cathedral's immediate surroundings and look around you. You will mostly see the unique efforts, seventy-five years ago, of one man, Sir Peter Smithers, spy, diplomat, MP and a lover of plants and trees.

The Friends have made significant contributions towards the upkeep of the Cathedral estate including grants for agricultural machinery.



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Green Fingers

Every November, there are stifled gasps of horror as people walking through the Inner Close see the beautifully manicured lawns disappearing under the Christmas Market chalets. Even worse is when the chalets are removed at the beginning of January to reveal what can only be described as a ghastly mudflat.

What happens next, though, amazes even those who are dedicated gardeners. Almost within days, the site is cleared, the mud has become a fine tilth and, miraculously, perfect green grass appears. Patrick Green, the Cathedral's Head Gardener, describes exactly how he does this.

Working the existing soil into a fine tilth is necessary to create a suitable seed bed and really only manageable when dry – otherwise a sticky, cloddy mess ensues. A cultivator is our first machine of choice and this buries the stones, relieves compaction and begins to even out the various bumps.

After a winter trip to a major landscape show in Birmingham a year or so ago, I came away armed with the brochure of Hurrell's Seed Merchants who've bred and selected cultivars of grass better suited to germinate at lower temperatures. Without delving too much into plant biology, the magic is a seed with four sets of chromosomes, boosting the production of chlorophyll. The resultant seedling is much more tolerant of tough, winter growing conditions.

It was unlikely that our pigeons would appreciate the intricacies of the cellular makeup of the seeds so, on the basis that the less they eat the better, I decided to cover the whole area in horticultural fleece with the added bonus of slightly raising the



ground temperature. This was an experiment of sorts, but one that created a rather lovely scene in its own right and, with fingers crossed, would speedily give us back our green grass quickly.

After the return of longer days and stronger sunshine, the first green shoots of recovery appear within three weeks or so. At that, point we re-pack the fleece for next year, over-seed any bare patches and deploy the garden roller to consolidate the emergent seedlings.



The Close laid bare



Covered by fleece after seeding



All green again

Cathedral Clock Facelift

After several decades of weather damage making numerals on its dial barely visible, the famous clock on the Cathedral tower has been given a well-deserved facelift. To avoid the high cost of scaffolding around the tower, a specialist team spent several days abseiling to and from the clock face to repaint the copper and wood dial and restore the gilded numerals. Funding of the renovation, including working parts of the clock, was met by the Friends.

It's not been established what the original colour of the clock's face was when it was installed in the 1700s but photographs in 1960s guide books confirm that it was blue when last repainted over half a century ago. It was decided to continue with that colour this year.



The working parts of the clock were clearly attended to by the famous clockmakers Aynsworth Thwaites of Clerkenwell, London – there's an engraved plate which says so. But the then cathedral blacksmith, Mr John Early, must also have had a major part in, perhaps, significant alterations to the timepiece during the 1770s. Notes in an accounting book, under the heading 'Repairs of the Church', reveal that Mr Early was paid £79-13 shillings "on account of the new clock in full of his bill", a figure which would be in the region of £16k in today's values.

A hundred years ago in 1925, a London horologist, Percy Webster, was asked to assess the condition of the Winchester clock. He reported, "I do not consider it unduly worn after nearly 150 years of wear and if re-bushed in the near future, there is no reason why it should not be used indefinitely."

However, while acknowledging the cathedral's love of its special timepiece, he wasn't exactly its greatest admirer:

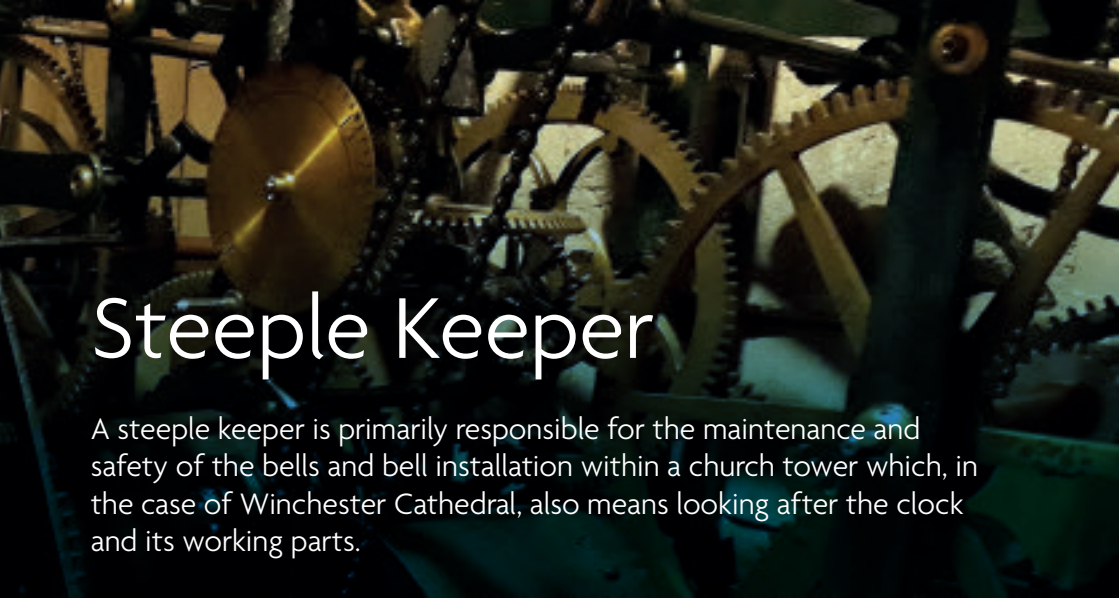
"I find this clock to have been ... entirely reconstructed in accordance with the engraved plate by Aynsworth Thwaites in 1777. Of course, it does not fulfil the requirements of a modern standard



time-keeper for a town the importance of Winchester but it is undoubtedly of great interest to preserve it, as far as possible untouched, in your wonderful old cathedral."

One of the mysteries surrounding an important timepiece in the city is why it's only visible on one side of the tower – the south side facing The Close, not the city itself. The suggestion is that in the 17th and 18th centuries, ordinary Winchester workers were not to be reminded how many hours they'd worked by a large clock – only those living in the Cathedral Close needed to know the time.

The Cathedral's Director of Works, Jon Ryan, said: "Thanks to the Friends' generous support we have been able to restore Winchester Cathedral's clock for the first time in decades. The clock movement (the internal mechanics) was taken apart and fully overhauled with decades of grit and grime being removed before being oiled and carefully put back together. Thanks to that specialist team of abseilers we were also able to aesthetically refinish the clock dial and hands in brilliant blue and gold leaf. Whilst so much of our work to the Cathedral is delicate conservation which can sometimes go unnoticed, the work to the clock dial has made a very notable visual impact. This has been a lovely project to be a part of and I'm delighted with the results. My thanks to all of the Friends for their contribution. We couldn't have done it without your support."



Steeple Keeper

A steeple keeper is primarily responsible for the maintenance and safety of the bells and bell installation within a church tower which, in the case of Winchester Cathedral, also means looking after the clock and its working parts.

Bevis Clarke-Smith was very much the catalyst for this year's important work on the Cathedral clock. His progression to the exalted position of our own 'steeple keeper' could be described as unlikely as any.

After thirty years working in the Legal Service of the European Commission in Brussels and before that at the European Court of Justice, Bevis and his wife decided to come home to the UK to see more of their children and grandchildren. "We stuck a pin in the map and chose Winchester. I went on a tower tour of the Cathedral and was so blown away by the bells, I asked if I could have a go."



An increasing love of bell-ringing and an addiction to fiddling with "mechanical things such as clocks, particularly turret clocks" led from one thing to another and his present position as steeple keeper.

Bevis thinks the plate dated 1777 on the clock's mechanism could refer to the year that important repairs were made to the mechanism, including the addition of a pendulum, and that the clock might be a hundred years older than that.

He certainly doesn't agree with the eminent horologist, Percy Webster, who in 1925 wrote that a city such as Winchester deserved a better cathedral clock.

"It's a beautiful piece of machinery," he says, "and I'd give my eye teeth to own a clock like that."

Bevis was appointed steeple keeper by Dean Ogle in 2017 with an annual stipend of ... £2.

Jane Austen

In this 250th anniversary year of Jane Austen's birth, thousands of her fans have been marking the occasion both inside the Cathedral where she lies and elsewhere. More events will be taking place later in the year.

The anniversary programme began in March with audiences of more than four thousand watching the newly-commissioned Luxmuralis, *The Storytellers*. The programme offered new and unique ways of learning about and enjoying Jane Austen's connection with Winchester Cathedral.

An exhibition showcasing Austen's poem *To the Memory of Anne Lefroy*, the original manuscript of which has been in the Cathedral's archives since 1936, opened at the end of May and was seen by over 7,000 visitors in the first two months of opening. (Ellie Swire describes the letter on page 24.)

This was followed by a hugely popular Regency Ball, when over four hundred dancers 'took to the floor' in the nave, with helpful instruction from the Hampshire Regency Dancers.

For lovers of Jane's novels, there were talks by Professor Michael Wheeler and Gillian Dow with the summer holidays being filled with a new interactive offer for 5-11 year olds,





'Jane's Jollies', which brought to life Austen's friends and family.

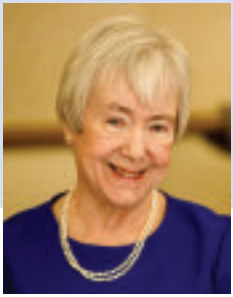
The official programme ends on October 16th with the unveiling of the statue of Jane Austen by Martin Jennings on the lawn outside No 9, The Close. However, Jane's influence will continue to be felt later in her anniversary year through the theme of the Lantern Parade, which will be "Light, bright, and sparkling", Austen's own description of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Ollie Taylor
Head of Visitor Experience and Exhibitions

Cathedrals of East Anglia



A group of Friends visited three contrasting cathedrals during their May excursion to East Anglia. The organiser, Julie Adams, reports that they were very warmly welcomed at all of them in the Benedictine tradition.



A member of the Friends of St Edmundsbury was there to greet us as we arrived at their Cathedral and their Dean, The Very Reverend Joe Hawes, welcomed us in the cathedral after the excellent buffet lunch provided by The Pilgrims' Kitchen. The Dean spoke of both the similarities and the differences between St Edmundsbury and Winchester Cathedrals.



The Choir at St Edmundsbury

St Edmundsbury serves as both a cathedral and a parish church. The parish church of St James became a cathedral in 1914, when the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich was created. Since then, the building has been enlarged considerably with a new quire, cloisters, transepts and a Lady Chapel. This year is the twentieth anniversary of the completion of the tower, a project carried out during the time our former Dean, James Atwell, was Dean at Bury St Edmunds. It is remarkable how the building blends the ancient and modern so well. The setting is glorious, as it is surrounded by the Abbey Gardens created in the 19th century on

ground where the ruins of the great abbey dedicated to St Edmund still stand.

From one of the smallest cathedrals in the country, we went to Ely, which must be one of the largest (just 19 feet shorter than our own cathedral in Winchester) and would have been considerably longer than ours if they had added the Lady Chapel in the traditional position at the east end, rather than to the north of the building. The crowning glory of Ely is the octagonal tower with its lantern above. The original Norman tower fell after the Lady Chapel was added, starting in 1321. Deep foundations were dug, and this disturbed the water table, resulting in the soil drying out and the tower collapsing. The innovative octagon tower was built to span the gaping hole in the Cathedral.

The Friends of Ely Cathedral had not known we were coming until the day we arrived and we were so impressed that they quickly organised impromptu tea and cake for us after our tours. Another bonus was a remarkable exhibition of work by Jacqui Parkinson entitled *Threads through the Bible*, which had opened in Ely Cathedral just 6 days before our visit. It consisted of 44 huge textile panels all worked by Jacqui over the last decade. It was stunning.

And on to Norwich founded in 1096, 17 years after our own cathedral was started, so later Norman work and therefore more decorated. Norwich Cathedral has had



Leaving Ely Cathedral



The church at Lavenham

fewer alterations than Winchester and the original Norman apse at the east end is very impressive, as are the cloisters with 400 wonderfully carved and painted stone bosses. The bosses in the cloister at Norwich are said to be the finest collection of bosses in the country and they depict a huge range of subjects, many of them biblical. They date from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. Here too, we were made very welcome and the Dean, the Very Reverend Andrew Braddock hosted us for tea and cake, in their relatively new hostry building.

Three Cathedrals in four days gave us lots of opportunity to think about architecture, history and spiritual matters, and visits to these wonderful buildings were supplemented by a cruise on the Broads in a replica paddle steamer, a visit to Oxburgh Hall, a moated National Trust property, and a visit to Lavenham, a medieval wool town that still has approximately the same population, 1,900, as it did at the height of its wealth in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. At that time, it was the 14th most prosperous town in England and paid more in taxes than Lincoln or York. There are 361 listed buildings in this tiny town, many of them timber framed dating back to the medieval period. The church and the guildhall (also National Trust) were built on the strength of this wealth and are very impressive.

Chapter Grants

The Friends are delighted to continue their support of many aspects of Cathedral life through grants.

Annually, the Friends fund two boy choristers and bear the entire cost of the Girl Choristers as well as providing support for the Junior Choir. The Friends support the Cathedral gardeners where possible and pay for the Cathedral flowers and the nave Christmas tree. For more information, see page 52.

Special grants, funded by legacies, provide financial support for a wide range of Cathedral projects. Last Autumn, the Friends' Trustees were asked to help fund the finishing touches of the Pavilion. They agreed to pay for the landscaping and the construction of a walkway to the Pavilion as well as the sound system (including a hearing loop) and the large screen. The Friends were happy to offer this support knowing that the new venue will continue to generate revenue for the Cathedral in the years ahead. Our first Friends' event in the Pavilion was the Christmas 'evening meal' after the Community Carol service in December. We are now using the Pavilion for most of our monthly events.

The Friends also funded new entrance doors for the Cathedral café. Café visitors had complained that during the cold weather, the doors never fully closed. Over the years the glazing panels had become misaligned and despite many attempts a simple repair was out of the question.

Also funded by the Friends are a hundred new chairs for the presbytery. They will offer added comfort for visitors to services and talks.



New Pavilion walkway....



...with plants added



New café doors



Presbytery chairs

Other items that the Friends' Trustees have agreed to fund are to renew and upgrade the audio-visual equipment in the Cathedral. This included necessary replacement of some existing screens in the nave.

The Flower team needed extra funding for additional flowers to support the Jane Austen celebrations.

Other projects in the pipeline are the establishment of a professional standard, small-plant nursery and a replacement carpentry workshop extractor.

See pages 32-34 for the Cathedral clock repair report.



New screens in the nave

Director's Report



A year in which the new Pavilion has given a boost to our events. Lucy Hutchin outlines some of the highlights.

As highlighted elsewhere in The Record, we are delighted that the Pavilion is the new venue for our monthly events. The top-quality sound system, including a hearing loop, have enabled us to run better quality events. Our first event in the Pavilion was a new one in the Friends' calendar – a Christmas meal after one of the Carol Services. Eighty Friends attended this inaugural event and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we will be running this event again this Christmas. In this new venue, we learned more about our founder, Dean Selwyn; were entertained by one of our sub-organists, Josh Stephens, and Lucy Martin from Hand & Lock outlined the history of embroidery for us. Another new initiative in the Pavilion this year was a History of England Study Day which was enjoyed by 120 Friends.

Over the past year, we have also organised tours of the Winchester College archives; heard from Alison Evans, the Cathedral's COO about the Cathedral masterplan; had a talk and tours about medieval women; learned more about the Lady Chapel with our busy Cathedral guide, Julie Adams; enjoyed a talk by the Cathedral archivist about Christmas throughout the ages at the Cathedral and heard from Cindy Wood about her life as a diamond sorter with De Beers. Quite a varied programme.

Friendship and community have been key themes this year. Friends enjoyed the third annual holiday to East Anglia in May. A group of forty-six Friends thoroughly enjoyed their time away and there is an account of the excursion on page 36. Many of the 'holidaymakers' have attended all three of the holidays and have built up solid friendships with others on the trip. We are also delighted that many of our new members are people who have moved from other parts of the country: joining the Friends seems to be considered a good way of getting to know people in their new surroundings. Our monthly coffee mornings have been busy and vibrant this year and have also resulted in blossoming friendships.

This year has also seen us transition to our new online database 'Beacon'. This has been a complicated and timely project but due to the dedication and hard work of Leisl Porter who persevered and did the migration without the help (and cost) of any IT consultants, the transition has gone smoothly and the team here in the office is enjoying the benefits.

Thank you to the Friends' Trustees for all their dedication and support. I would like also to thank Bruce Parker for his hours of dedication to the Friends and, in particular, for supporting me over the last seven years. He is, quite simply, the best 'line manager' I have ever had. Thank you to Lesley and Leisl in the office for everything they do for the Friends. My thanks, as well, to the vast team of volunteers who put together our mailings and deliver them, reducing our costs considerably.

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Image Gallery











Twelve months of images in and around the Cathedral: (left hand page clockwise) the Friends' chalet at the Christmas market; the cherry picker assisting with the Christmas tree; a Christmas service in the Cathedral; monthly coffee morning; History of England study day; (right hand page clockwise) Christmas supper; Jane Austen exhibition; Friends' day tea in the garden; Bruce Parker with other Companions of St Swithun; Ordination day in The Close; St Swithun's shrine with flowers on Friends' Day; Lesley, Leisl and Lucy at the Christmas coffee morning.





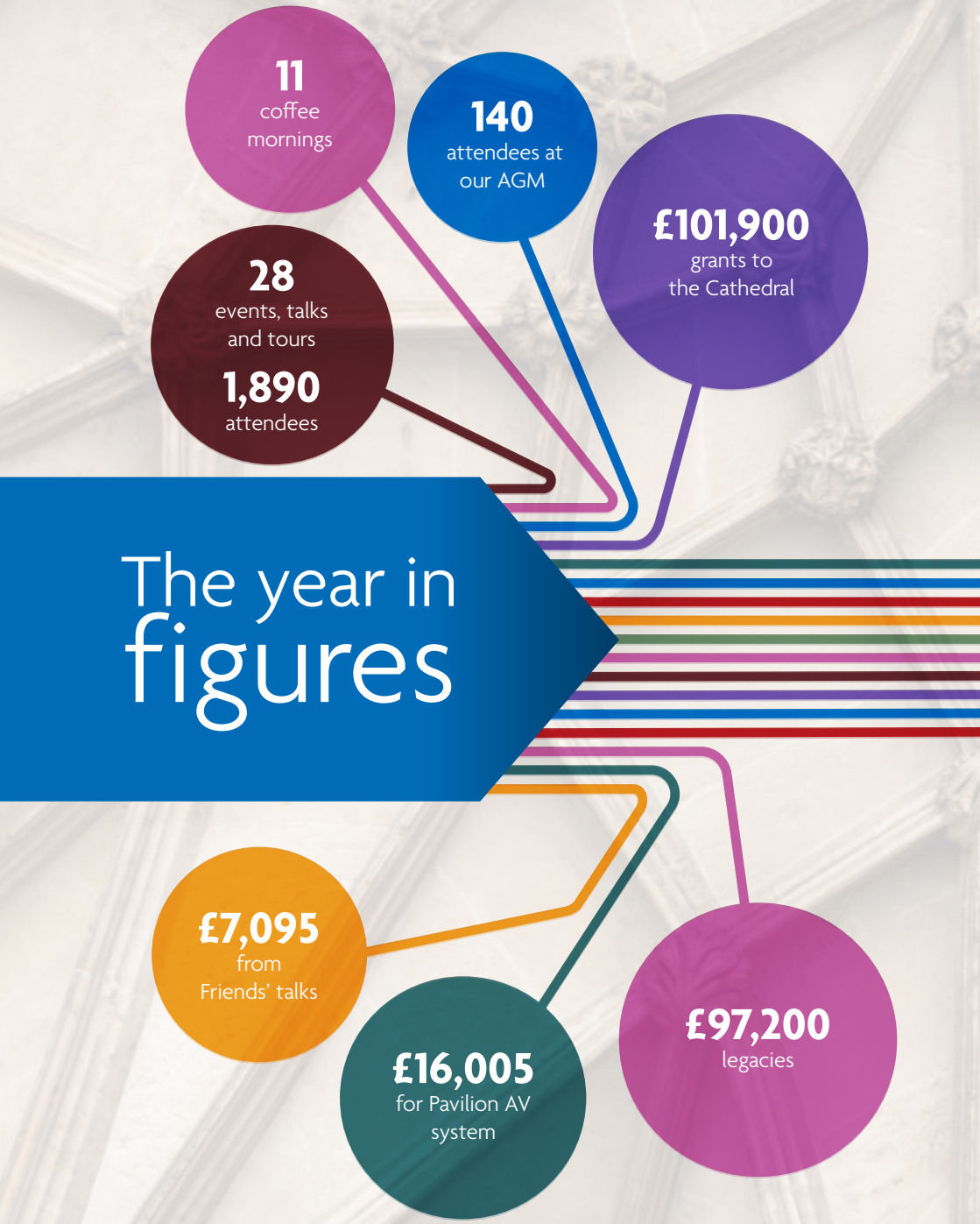


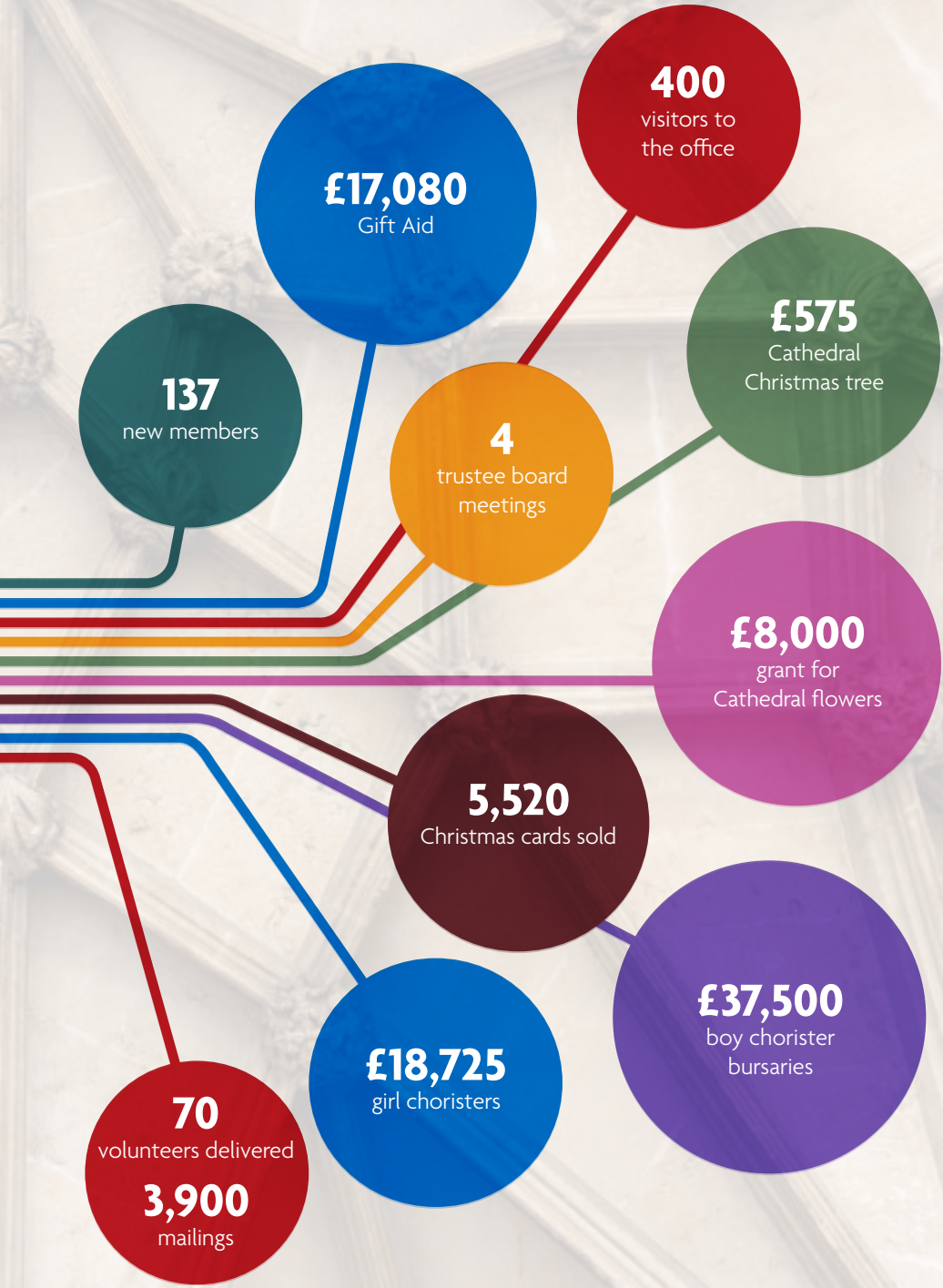









11
coffee mornings
140
attendees at our AGM
£101,900
grants to the Cathedral
28
events, talks and tours
1,890
attendees
The year in figures
£7,095
from Friends' talks
£16,005
for Pavilion AV system
£97,200
legacies


400
visitors to the office
£17,080
Gift Aid
£575
Cathedral Christmas tree
137
new members
4
trustee board meetings
£8,000
grant for Cathedral flowers
5,520
Christmas cards sold
£37,500
boy chorister bursaries
£18,725
girl choristers
70
volunteers delivered
3,900
mailings

Minutes of the AGM

Saturday 12th July, 2.pm, Cathedral Pavilion

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
The meeting was chaired by Canon Roly Riem, Interim Dean of Winchester, and President of the Board, who welcomed around 130 members. The Interim Dean also welcomed the Lord Lieutenant, Nigel Atkinson and Cllr Sudhakar Achwal, Mayor of Winchester.

2. Apologies for absence
There were apologies from forty Friends.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 6th July 2024 and Matters arising from the Minutes
The minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising

4. Interim Dean's Report
Canon Roly reported on the changes that had taken place at the Cathedral over the past year. He thanked Dean Catherine for everything she had done and wished her well for her retirement. Roly updated the meeting about the key points of the Bishop's Review and the work that is ongoing. He listed the new senior Cathedral appointments (Andrew Micklefield as Canon Treasurer, Julian Poppleton as Chaplain and new lay members of Chapter) and updated the meeting about the process and timeline for the new dean's appointment. Canon Roly also recalled major public events at the Cathedral over the last year including the Whales and the new Jane Austen exhibition

5. Chief Operating Officer's Report
Alison Evans thanked the Friends for all the projects they have recently funded, including the Pavilion walkway & AV equipment, the repairs to the Cathedral clock and 100 new chairs for the presbytery as well as the annual grants for the Girl's Choir, the boy choristerships and Cathedral flowers. She updated the meeting about the business performance of the Cathedral (retail, visitor numbers, Jane Austen activity and the Christmas Market) and gave an update about future plans for events in 2026. She also reported that the Cathedral Architect's quinquennial report has been received and is being addressed alongside the Cathedral masterplan.

6. Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Bruce Parker, on the occasion of his retirement as Chairman after fourteen years, spoke of the projects over the years which is he most proud of and thanked the Trustees and staff for all their efforts and support. He was delighted that Angela Forder-Stent was taking over as Chair and wished her well.

7. Director's Report
Lucy Hutchin, Director, reported on a successful year of events both online and in person in the new Pavilion with its fabulous AV equipment. She also thanked Julie Adams for organising the holiday to East Anglia and commented that the social side of the friends has become strong with busy coffee mornings and new members who have moved to Winchester becoming involved. Lucy updated the meeting about the office migration to the new 'Beacon' database and thanked Leisl Porter for all her hard work on this project. She also thanked Lesley Mead, Leisl Porter, Bruce Parker and all the Trustees and volunteers for their invaluable help.





8. Honorary Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st March 2025
Richard Green-Wilkinson explained the 'Statement of Financial Activities' to the members (see page 50). This had been circulated to the members beforehand along with the balance sheet and list of grants. Richard explained that the voluntary income was £1.165m which was due to a very large legacy. Other legacy income totalled £48k. The treasurer explained that the Friends are so grateful for these legacies, because it allows them to provide special grants to the Cathedral, including the Pavilion walkway, sound system and screen, all being used today, new chairs for the quire, the Cathedral clock repairs and the new café doors. Richard reported that apart from the legacies, the Friends have had a good year financially, receiving subscriptions and donations of £116k. In addition, Lucy, with the help of Leisl and Lesley, worked tirelessly to provide wonderful talks, trips, tours and the excellent coffee mornings. These had all produced a surplus of over £14k.

A detailed list of annual and special grants to Chapter is provided on page 52.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiners, Buzzacott, for the year 2025/26
Proposed: Tom Watson, Seconded: Nigel Atkinson. Agreed by members.

10. Board of Trustees: Re-election and election of new Trustees
Re-election of Angela Forder-Stent. Proposed: Natalie Shaw. Seconded: Frank Pearson. Agreed by members.

Re-election of Richard-Green Wilkinson. Proposed: Anne Pearson. Seconded: Rev Norman Boakes. Agreed by members.

Election of Michael Burke. Proposed: Anthony Smith. Seconded: Paul Isted. Agreed by members.

Election of Zoe Seenan. Proposed: Rosemary Walker. Seconded: Natalie Shaw. Agreed by members.

Election of Marcel Bradbury. Proposed: William Meyer. Seconded: Richard Coppin. Agreed by members.

Election of Karen Dagwell. Proposed: John Spiers. Seconded: Barrie Somerville. Agreed by members.

11. Any other business
Canon Roly responded to two questions about the new dean recruitment process.

Friends' Festal Evensong

This year's Festal Evensong included a special farewell to our retiring Chairman, Bruce Parker. Below is a shortened version of Canon Tess Kuin Lawton's address.



"Yesterday, I was talking to one of the clergy chaplains about why, in her busy life, she still finds time to come and volunteer here. She reminded me that this house of the Lord draws in people of 'all sorts and conditions' as the prayer book would say. The conversations she has under this extraordinary nave roof are like no other, because of the way the building itself seems to open people up. In the world of church mission which this Canon Missioner inhabits, there is a lot of fast-paced discussion about hubs and strategies and measurement and growth. I am so grateful to work in a Cathedral which offers an extra dimension to these conversations; a church building like this is a place of wonder and gentleness and grace.

Here is a place to contemplate and consider the huge questions of life, in the company of ancient pillars and vast stone walls. When our own lives or the collective life of the world feels painful or difficult, here is a place where the 'word of the Lord endureth forever', and which remains standing after reformation and civil war. And thus, our mortality is affirmed; our ego kept in check, and we are blessed by the grace of an eternal perspective.

Today, standing on the shoulders of giants, we honour before God two men whose ministry of encouragement and service to the life and community of the Cathedral are an inspiration to us all. As Canon Charles retires from Christchurch Priory, we stand in awe at his energy and talent as precentor and the way he has supported us and steered this great ship through rough waters and calm seas alike: he is now to be a Companion of Swithun.

Bruce Parker's care and love for Winchester Cathedral have been the most remarkable gift to the entire community. Everything offered to the Cathedral by the Friends has been encouraged by his wise and gentle guidance.

This weekend is all about foundations. We have just offered praise and thanksgiving for those who have contributed to the foundations of this place: restorers of the nave, makers of the choir stalls; we have acknowledged the part which this building plays in our own spiritual life: St Swithun, the builder of bridges is the one who shows us how to build bridges and to love one another 'with a pure heart fervently', as the musicians might say. These soaring vaults are a reminder of the reaching and stretching of our souls. The music which lifts us is written and sung in order that, 'lost in wonder, love and praise', we might draw a little closer to the mysteries of the universe.

In the service of the one who calls us and equips us, we give thanks for this community and pledge ourselves to continue to build one another up in encouragement and in love. Amen."



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Friends of Winchester Cathedral statement of

Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Voluntary income	**1,165,147**	**-**	**1,165,147**	333,301
Activities for generating funds	**55,070**	**-**	**55,070**	47,447
Investment income	**16,920**	**-**	**16,920**	13,346
Total income	**1,237,137**	**-**	**1,237,137**	394,094
Expenditure				
Costs of generating funds	**53,230**	**-**	**53,230**	36,723
Charitable activities	**270,770**	**-**	**270,770**	226,432
Total expenditure	**324,000**	**-**	**324,000**	263,155
Net income (expenditure) for the year	**913,137**	**-**	**913,137**	130,939
(Losses) / gains on investment assets	**1,675**	**-**	**1,675**	48,700
Net movement in funds	**914,812**	**-**	**914,812**	179,639
Fund balances brought forward	**957,091**	**1,101**	**958,192**	778,553
Transfers between Funds	**1,101**	**-1,101**	**-**	-
Fund balances carried forward	**1,873,004**	**-**	**1,873,004**	958,192

The 2024 figures include Restricted Fund income of £6,801, and Restricted Fund expenditure of £5,700, providing net income of £1,101.

The above is an extract from the full Financial Statements for the financial year ending 31st March 2025. The formal Trustees' Report and Financial Statements have been independently examined and were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20th May 2025. They will be submitted to the Charity Commission as required. Copies of the full document are available on application to the Friends' office or from the Charity Commission's website *www.charity-commission.gov.uk*

Balance Sheet

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	**-**	-
Investments	**668,757**	667,127
	688,757	667,127
Current assets		
Stocks	**1,660**	977
Debtors	**1,092,887**	142,124
Cash on deposit	**235,243**	260,569
	1,329,790	403,670
Current liabilities		
Grants outstanding	**118,318**	84,375
Other creditors	**27,225**	28,230
	145,543	112,605
Net current assets	**1,184,247**	291,065
Total assets less current liabilities	**1,873,004**	958,192
Representing:		
Unrestricted funds	**1,873,004**	957,091
Restricted funds	**0**	1,101
Total funds	**1,873,004**	958,192

Grants to Chapter

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted:		
Trees in Public Areas	**6,150**	5,750
Girls' Choir	**18,725**	17,500
Baker Choristership	**18,725**	17,500
Friends' Choristership	**18,725**	17,500
Cathedral Flowers	**8,000**	10,700
Planned Maintenance of Cathedral Precincts	**8,250**	7,700
West End Christmas tree	**575**	850
Girl Chorister Chaperone	**1,583**	-
Cherry Picker including delivery	**-**	40,634
Handles for Chair Trolleys	**-**	2,014
Inventory Project	**-**	419
Stone bridge-saw for Stonemasons' Department	**-**	(32,978)
Retrochoir Tiles Conservation Symposium	**-**	(137)
Stonemason's Yard Equipment	**(8,503)**	34,770
Quire Cushions	**(1,000)**	-
Tractor	**100**	12,980
Accreditation Project	**-**	32,000
Pavilion Walkway	**35,891**	-
Sound System for Pavilion	**11,814**	-
Sound System for Pavilion – Video	**4,190**	-
New Chairs for Quire	**25,439**	-
Renewing & Upgrading AV in Cathedral	**12,883**	-
Flowers for Jane Austen Summer	**1,284**	-
Professional Standard small plant Nursery	**8,560**	-
Replacement Carpenter Workshop Extractor	**6,420**	-
Cathedral Clock Repairs	**29,960**	-
Repairs to Café doors	**6,764**	-
	214,535	167,202
Restricted:		
Organ restoration	**-**	5,700
	214,535	172,902

Grants written back in the prior year are primarily as a result of the cost of the anticipated work being lower than the original estimate on which the grant application was based, or in respect of which the work associated with the project was no longer required to be undertaken.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2025



The income and expenditure account (on page 50) shows net income for the year of £913,137. This compares with net income last year of £130,939. An excellent result. It is, however, achieved with the help of a large legacy. The legacy has not yet been received, so £1m has been included in the accounts. In addition we have received a further £48k in other legacies in the year. We are so grateful for these legacies, which allow us to provide Special Grants to the Cathedral. Last year these included the Pavilion walkway, sound system and screen, new chairs for the quire, the Cathedral clock repairs and the new café doors, with total grants, both annual and special, amounting to £214,535.

The income for the year includes subscriptions and donations from members totalling £116k. In addition, our director, Lucy Hutchin, with help from Leisl and Lesley, provided excellent talks, trips, tours and other events giving an income of £55,070 and a surplus of over £14k.

Investment income of £16,920 was up on the previous year (£13,346), due to more cash on deposit during the year.

After including a small investment gain of £1,675, we have a very healthy £1,873,004 of funds to carry forward. This is largely represented by our investments (£668,757), debtors (£1,092,887), which includes the £1m legacy and cash (£235,243), as shown on the Balance Sheet.

Please help us to maximise our income

Gift Aid

Why not enable your generosity to be enhanced by 25% without it costing you a penny? Gift Aid is a government scheme which lets charities claim tax relief on the donations you make to them.

By way of a simple illustration:

- Your gift-aided subscription is £30 (or £55 for a joint membership)
- The Gift Aid is 25% of £30, so £7.50 (or £13.75 for a joint membership)
- This results in an overall gift to The Friends of £37.50 (or £68.75 for a joint membership)
- A higher-rate taxpayer (at, say, 40%) can then reduce his or her tax bill by £7.50, thus reducing the cost of the subscription from £30 to £22.50 (or from £55 to £41.25 for a joint membership)

It's as simple as that, so may I encourage any of you who are unsure as to whether or not you have asked us to apply gift aid to your contributions, to call the office, who will then check database.

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Christmas Cards 2025

Our cards this year cost £5.50 for a pack of 8 cards.
All profits will be used by the Friends to support the Cathedral.

The order form accompanies the Record.















Record Extra and Friends' Archive



In 2024-25, two editions of *Record Extra* were produced by the journal's editors Dr Cindy Wood and Prof Tom Watson. New material has also been added to the Friends' Archive.

November 2024

This edition had two articles. The main feature was about the Cathedral's forgotten relic of St Philip the Apostle, which made its way via Flanders to the Escorial monastery-palace near Madrid, where it joined Philip II's vast relic collection in 1592. There was also an Editors' Note, *Tournai fonts in England.*

March 2025

The March Editors' Note was *In Search of Bishop Peter Mews*, an exploration of Winchester's other 'warrior-bishop', Bishop Peter Mews (1684-1706), who served in the English Civil War and was present at the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1685. His memorial is in the Guardian Angels Chapel in the retroquire.

A major addition to the Friends' archive website in January was Winchester Stone, a 96-page illustrated booklet on all the types of stone used in the Cathedral and other major buildings in the city. It has been written by John Parker, a Friend, Cathedral Guide, Sidesman and, most importantly, a geologist.

The archive's home page is www.wincathrecord.org. It can be searched as a complete resource using 'Search All', or specific editions, publications and articles can be accessed through the 'Browse' facility. Record Extra is also on the Cathedral website under the Friends tab.

www.wincathrecord.org

Legacies

We are grateful for all the legacies we have received, most recently from:

Maureen Barber
Christopher Buckmaster
Philip Carter
Janet Corton
David Cundy
Teresa Gillham
Andrew Gordon Clark
Penelope Jaffe
Celia Middleditch
Penny Neyroud
Elizabeth Warren
Patricia Williams

New Members

A big welcome to all our new members below. Please do make full use of your membership and we'd love to see you at any of our events, details of which are emailed regularly. Also, don't hesitate to call on us in the office at 2, The Close, if you have any queries or just wish to say 'hello'.

Mrs M Adcock
Miss L Ausden
Mrs R Bairstow
Mrs M Baker
Mr & Mrs C Bates
Mr C Bazlinton
Mrs S Bellasis
Mr & Mrs M Bradbury
Ms M Broderick
Miss E Bulstrode
Mr & Mrs A Burnie
Mrs R Carter
Mr & Mrs D Casey
Mr & Mrs C Cawte
Dr J & Revd C Chadwick
Mrs C Coles
Mr & Mrs P Collins
Mrs P Costard
Mr & Mrs G P Cronan
Mr R Danes
Mr & Mrs G de Watteville
Mr & Mrs B Dey
Mrs D Duggan
Mrs J Dyson
Mrs J Eddlestone
Mrs C Ellison-Pretious
Mr & Mrs J Essex
Mr J Evans
Mr & Mrs G Evans
Mr & Mrs G Finlayson
Dr D Fishpool
Ms M Flanagan
Mrs H Ford
Mrs P Furlong
Mr & Mrs P Golding
Mr G Goodman
Mr & Mrs P Graham
Mr & Mrs A Gray
Mrs A Grichanova
Mr & Mrs R Hague
Mrs F Hewitt
Mrs J Higgins
Ms A High
Mr & Mrs H Howorth
Miss H Hughson
Mr & Mrs A Jasper
Mr S Judd
Mr A Kinnear
Mr & Dr M Koopmann
Mr R & Revd J Leese
Mrs A Flood
Mr & Mrs G Light
Mrs R A J Lovell
Mr J R McBrearty
Mr & Mrs C Metz
Mr W Meyer
Miss J Michel
Mr & Mrs G H Milton
Mr I Montgomery
Mr C Muller
Ms S Muller
Mr & Mrs D Newman
Mr M Newton
Mrs F Nield
Ms M O'Connell
Mr S O'Hehir
Mr & Mrs D R M Osborne
Mrs G Paul
Mr P Portal
Mr & Mrs R Puncher
Mr & Mrs P Rabbetts
Mr & Mrs D Richardson
Sister K Salmon
Mr & Mrs J Schute
Mrs Z Seenan
Mrs S Simpson
Mrs E Spearing
Mrs M Spelman
Miss J Sprankling
Mr G Stacey
Mr I Standen
Mrs G Stanning
Dr & Mrs B Stedman
Mrs S M Stewart
Mr M Stubbings
Mr & Mrs E Szczechura
Mr J Taylor
Mr A Thomas
Mrs R Thomas
Mr & Mrs A Thomson
Mr & Mrs M Thorpe
Mr and Mrs C Tomlinson
Mr & Mrs I C Town
Mr P Turner
Mr M Walker
Mr & Mrs A Warner
Ms D Waterman
Mrs A Williams
Mr A Wilson
Mr I Winkworth
Mrs L M Winter
Mr & Mrs C Young

50 Year Membership Anniversaries

Dr H R Benham
Miss H J Boothman
Mrs M Callé
Mr M J Taylor
Mr & Mrs A Skinner

In Memoriam

Mr I Allured
Miss M Babington
Mr D Bailey
Mrs M J Baker
Mrs J Baldock
Mrs M Boak
Mrs M Braddock
Miss J V Brooke
The Revd J Brownsell
Mr R Chester
Mrs S M Clark
Mr J Cornes
Mr T E Cox
Mrs B B Croft
Mrs J E Crowther
Mrs R Davidson
Mr P H de Rougemont
Mrs V M Eaton
Mr R Fox
Mr K A Fuller
T M M Gillham
Mr A Gordon Clark
Mr J M Greany
Mrs B A Hall
Mrs J M Hurst-Brown
Mrs E M S John
Mrs J Lang
Mr P Leventon
Dr R Lillyman
Mr B D Lipscomb
Mrs C Lipscomb
Mr G D Lloyd
Mr J A Lowes
Mr M Lupton
Dr D MacDowall
Miss S J Mansergh
Major J Nairne
Miss V Newell
Mrs R Newman
Mrs D J Pegg
Mrs S A Pickett
Mr M J Pickett
Lady Portal
Mr N Poucher
Mrs J M Rich
Mr A J Sambrook
Mrs S H Sanders
Mr A J T Saunders
Mr I P H Skeet
Mr D A Surplice
Mr C Trippe
Mr H Trotter
Mr M Vokes
Miss P Ward
Miss A M Weir
Dr D M Werry
Mrs P L Williams
Mrs P M Wood

Jane, Lady Portal

Jane, Lady Portal, who was our most senior Friend, has died at the age of 100. She became a member, as Jane Williams, eighty-three years ago in 1942. No one will ever claim to have had a stronger connection with the Friends – Dean Selwyn, the founder of The Friends, became her stepfather and she lived in the Deanery during World War II. All her life she had been a great supporter of the Friends and the Cathedral itself and we will miss greatly her charming cheerfulness and remarkable vigour, even in the years before she reached her century.





A gift for all time

Throughout our history, some of our most important work in the Cathedral has been supported by legacies.

In the past year, we have received a number of valuable legacies, most notably one for £1.5m. Legacies, large or small, have funded a number of special projects this year, such as the Cathedral clock repairs, new chairs for the presbytery, audiovisual equipment inside the Pavilion and the walkway outside.

If you do decide to leave a gift to the Friends or have already made provision for one, we would be very pleased to hear from you, if only to say thank you.

Please contact Lucy Hutchin on 01962 857244 or lucy.hutchin@winchester-cathedral.org.uk if you would like to discuss leaving a gift to the Friends in your will.

Thank you so much.

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