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Oranges & Lemons

COVER STORY: 100 Year Anniversary of the RAF
Foreword by Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier

**The Friends of
St Clement Danes**

Issue No. 45
Spring 2018

The Friends of St Clement Danes

Registered Charity No. 1048757

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O&L Bulletin

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The Friends of St Clement Danes

Bulletin
No. 45
Spring 2018

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
**St Clement
Danes Church**



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“Enabling the sacrifices of the past to support the challenges of the future”

Editorial Note

Iza Seabrook



It is my pleasure to edit the spring issue of Oranges & Lemons. This year promises to be full of some amazing celebrations at St Clement Danes. I hope you find time to visit us and share in the festivities.

If you have articles or pictures you wish to see published, please email me: iza.seabrook@gmail.com

THINGS TO DO

- **Tell your friends and neighbours about us**
- **Visit us whenever you are in London**
- **Pray for all who work and visit here**
- **Help out on one Sunday a year**
- **Become a guide to a group of visitors**

Please contact us: 020 7242 8282 or stclementdanesh1@btconnect.com or through the website if you can help out, especially on a Sunday; be a sidesman / woman, macebearer or read a lesson; we can support and encourage you in your new duties.

COVER STORY: 100 year anniversary of the RAF

Foreword by our Patron

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier KCB CBE DFC ADC MA RAF
Chief of the Air Staff



It is my great pleasure to write this foreword for the spring edition of Oranges & Lemons, in the Centenary year of the Royal Air Force.

The historical links between St Clement Danes Church and the Service are very well known to you, and I am pleased to say they remain very strong indeed today. Many RAF-related Services are held in the Church over the course of every year and this year will see even more, ranging from our traditional

Formation Service on 1 April to the simultaneous services at St Clement Danes and Westminster Abbey to celebrate our Centenary milestone on the 10 July.

I know the immense amount of work that is undertaken by The Friends of St Clement Danes in support of the spiritual and physical aspects of this, the Central Church of the RAF. I also know of the purchases which have been made by the Friends in those areas for which there is no public or Church funding. I am very grateful for those efforts and for the initiative in identifying and taking such opportunities - they are vital to the successful running of the Church.

I am also most grateful for the work you undertake in your outreach programme linking each RAF station or unit with St Clement Danes, and also in the support you provide to the local congregation and others in London. I saw an example of this work at first hand when I attended the Annual Concert last November. With a full Church enjoying The Central Band of the RAF and the outstanding St Clement Danes Choir, your reputation is strong, continually growing and widely recognised.

Thank you all for your hard work. I offer my very best wishes for 2018 - such an important year for us all.

Trustees' Book

Located within the crypt at St Clement Danes is The Trustees' Book. The book contains the names of people who have died since leaving the Royal Air Force.

Names can be included at the request of family members of the deceased, for which a fee of £40 is payable.

To download the application for an entry in The Trustees' Book, please scroll to the foot of the following page within St Clement Danes website:

www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdanes/friendsofsacd/friendstrustees.cfm



Chairman's Letter

Group Captain Mark D Heffron MA FCIS CMgr FCMI RAF



Welcome to the spring edition of Oranges & Lemons, in this the Royal Air Force's centenary year.

We look forward to celebrating the Centenary at this our Central Church and supporting the staff as they take on the myriad of tasks to make St Clement Danes ready for each event.

The two key events of the year have been highlighted by our Patron in his foreword and I add to that the Friends Annual concert due to take place on Thursday 29 November at 7pm.

May I thank you for your support over the course of last year, a year where we were able to spend even more than in previous years in the purchase of physical items for the church, and also where we were able to contribute significantly to the wider St Clement Danes outreach programme.

It really is a team effort between the main St Clement Danes Board, the permanent staff and the Friends. We look forward to doing our bit in 2018 and I thank you in advance for your support throughout this year.

From the Resident Chaplain

The Rev'd David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF



As you receive this issue of Oranges & Lemons, we will be in the final stages of planning our celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918. This year the 1 April happens to be Easter Day so we have combined our Easter celebrations with the annual formation service to make a day that I am sure none of us will forget. You may wish to know that the Friends have been very generous in supporting our plans for 2018 including such diverse gifts as replacement Eucharistic vestments for our assistant

ministers, to the commissioning of a new choral work to be performed for the first time on Easter Day.

Throughout 2018 many of the RAF family organisations are celebrating their 100th anniversary so we have a very full liturgical programme running through the year right up to the centenary of the RAF Chaplains' Branch at the end of November. Not to be forgotten, of course, that on Sunday 11 November 2018 we will commemorate one hundred years since the Armistice was signed. We are all immensely grateful for the support and encouragement we receive for the work of the ministry in the Central Church and look forward to seeing you if you are able to visit us. You have probably gathered that 2018 will be a good year to come and visit us.

With best wishes and every blessing to you all.

Tuesday 10 July 2018

I am sure that you will already have this date in your diary as it will be the day that the nation celebrates the RAF's 100th anniversary with a big service in Westminster Abbey, followed by a fly-past over central London.

St Clement Danes will be open throughout the day for private prayer and for those on pilgrimage – from 11am there will be a chance to join us in prayer and praise (coinciding with the service in the Abbey) concluding in time to see the aircraft.

Easter Lilies

As you may be aware it is our custom at St Clement Danes to decorate the church at Easter with lilies. Traditionally, these flowers are given in memory of loved ones who have died; and their names are recorded and remembered in church.

This year the Easter service coincides with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force.

I am inviting you, should you so wish, to make a donation towards the cost of the Easter Lilies.

If you would like to do so, please send your donation in an envelope to:

The Resident Chaplain (Easter Lilies)
St Clement Danes Church, Strand, London WC2R 1DH

Cheques should be made payable to: Friends of St Clement Danes

Please ensure you include the name(s) of those whom you would like us to remember.

From the Registers

We are delighted to have shared in families' excitement when they come to St Clement Danes for a Baptism or Wedding.

Baptisms

Anna Vivienne Salter (3 September)

Phoebe Frances Turner (1 October)

Maia Sky Elisa Nosalik (5 November)

Elizabeth Mia Nutley (17 December)

Weddings

John J H McNeilly & Charlotte E A Bown (30 September)

James R Warrender & Emily Goodchild (13 October)

Christopher Chapman & Emma Brown (27 October)

James C Morrall & Katherine H Wilson (17 November)

Jonathan P Long & Victoria J Thorpe (13 January 2018)

**Requests for Baptisms and Weddings should be made
to the Resident Chaplain**

Diamond Jubilee Year for BBFA

Geoff Simpson

In 2018 an exclusive organisation reaches its diamond jubilee. Although former Fighter Command aircrew, who had flown in the Battle of Britain, had met informally since the end of the war, it was not until 1958 that the Battle of Britain Fighter Association (BBFA)



was established. Full membership of the new organisation was only available to men who had qualified for the "immediate" award of the 1939-1945 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp by making at least one authorised operational flight with an "accredited unit", under the control of RAF Fighter Command, between 10 July and 31 October 1940. It took until 1961 for the final list of 71 accredited squadrons and other units to be established.

Pictured above: Pilot Officer Tom Neil (right) during the Battle of Britain. He is with Pilot Officer Bill Millington, an Australian and fellow Hurricane pilot on No 249 Squadron. Bill Millington was killed in action on October 30 1940 and is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial.

In March 1958 Air Commodore Charles Widdows, DFC, Chairman of the committee establishing the BBFA, sent a newsletter to

interested parties. Charles Widdows, who had commanded No 29 Squadron, with Blenheims and Beaufighters, in the Battle, set out the objects of the Association as:-

- To look after the welfare of members of the Association and their dependents, in co-operation with the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and other charitable and advisory institutions, according to their needs.
- To preserve the memory of fighter aircrew who died in the Battle of Britain.
- To foster good fellowship amongst members of the Association in perpetuation of the comradeship which existed during the Battle of Britain.
- To perform the functions and ceremonies in furtherance of the objects of the Association, and to arrange representation at other appropriate functions and ceremonies to which the Association might be invited.

Later in his newsletter Charles Widdows made clear the top level interest in the new organisation – writing:

"Now that we are a going concern I have written officially to our President, Vice President and ex officio Vice Presidents inviting them to take up their respective duties forthwith. They have all accepted. President – Lord Dowding, GCB, GCVO, CMG. Life Vice-President – Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Park, GCB, KBE, MC, DFC, DCL. Ex Officio Vice Presidents – The Chief of the Air Staff Sir Dermot Boyle, GCB, KCVO, KBE, AFC The Commander-in-Chief, Fighter Command Sir Thomas Pike, KCB, CBE, DFC."

Many Battle of Britain Clasp holders quickly became members and the Association was active, not only in the UK, but in countries such as Australia, from which men had come to fly in the defence of Britain in 1940. From the start rigour was applied to the question of only admitting those who had qualified for the Battle of Britain Clasp and doubtful cases were referred to Flight Lieutenant John Holloway, whose painstaking work led to the publication, in 1961, of the first comprehensive list of Battle of Britain airmen.



Pictured above: Wing Commander Tom Neil, DFC (and bar), AFC (right) photographed at the National Memorial to The Few, Capel-le-Ferne, talking to the late actor, Sir Donald Sinden, CBE. Tom Neil is wearing the 1939-1945 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp and the tie of the Battle of Britain Fighter Association.

Reunions on or around 15 September, Battle of Britain Day, have always been a major feature of BBFA activities. A highlight came on 15 September 1969 when the World premiere of the film, *Battle of Britain* was held at London's Dominion Theatre. Lord Dowding had a place of honour in the centre stalls, with men who had flown under his command in 1940 seated around him.

In the 1980s the Association was much concerned that a statue of Lord Dowding should be erected in London and there was delight, in 1988, at the unveiling of the statue outside St Clement Danes by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. This occasion was particularly fitting as Her Majesty was, for many years, Patron of the Fighter Association, always taking a keen interest in its affairs. The Association was greatly honoured when His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales agreed to succeed his Grandmother as Patron, a role in which he continues to this day.

Unlike many associations of wartime veterans, the BBFA has continued to the present, although the inevitability of time means that the membership is in single figures. Anybody who flew in the Battle of Britain is now at least 95 years old.

The BBFA remains independent, but operates under the umbrella of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, custodian of the National Memorial to The Few at Capel-le-Ferne, Kent, with Group Captain Patrick Tootal, OBE, DL, as Secretary of both organisations. The Ven Ray J Pentland, CB, QHC, BA, DPS, MTh, President of The Friends of St Clement Danes, is Chaplain to the BBFA.

The Polish Air Force Memorial Plaque

Jack Orchel

Executive Committee, The Polish Airmen's Association UK

Inlaid in the floor of the north aisle of St Clement Danes Church is the magnificent plaque dedicated to the 17,000 Polish airmen and airwomen who served with the Polish Air Force under RAF command during WW2. Over 1,900 airmen gave their lives during that epic struggle to defend the British Isles and restore freedom in Europe. The plaque is also their memorial.



The Polish memorial project for St Clement Danes was initiated in 1961 and developed over several years by a small team of airmen nominated by the Polish Air Force Association GB. Their design for the plaque was approved by W Anthony S Lloyd, the architect who had directed the post-war reconstruction of the bombed church. The memorial was expertly fashioned by E J & A T Bradford Ltd,

architectural restorers. All costs were shared equally by PAFA and the Air Ministry.



The plaque was unveiled by General Władysław Anders and Air Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier in a special ceremony held on 8 September 1968 during a service marking the 50th anniversary of the Polish Air Force (*pictured left*).

In attendance were senior Polish and Royal Air Force chaplains, also distinguished wartime leaders of the Polish Armed Forces in exile as well as prominent RAF commanders (Robert S

Blucke, William B Callaway, Sir John Cordingley, Sir Patrick Dunn, Sir Arthur Harris, Sir Arthur Humphrey, Sir Hugh Lloyd and Stanley F Vincent). Polish scouts provided an honour guard for the guests and the wartime standard of the Polish Air Force was paraded. The church was packed for the occasion with relatives and friends of Polish airmen. In an eloquent address Rev John Roche, former principal Roman Catholic chaplain with the RAF, spoke of the tragedy which had befallen Poland in 1939 and after the War.

The legendary White Eagle of Poland stands proudly at the heart of the plaque wearing a royal crown upon its head. Its upright wings indicate its readiness to fly in defence of its homeland. The eagle is protected by feathered arcs representing Poland's winged hussars,

the elite cavalrymen who drove Turkish invaders from the gates of Vienna in 1683. In its talons the eagle grasps a small shield, as used in antiquity by fearless female Amazon warriors.

The four corners of the plaque are bound by red and white checkerboards of the Polish Air Force. Badges of the sixteen Polish squadrons which were formed on British soil during the war years make up the borders of the memorial. They include the emblems of No 302 and No 303 Fighter Squadron which fought with conspicuous success and helped to defend London during the Battle of Britain. A ribbon of gold surrounds the White Eagle bearing the inscription, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy iv 7).

A total of 145 experienced Polish airmen fought gallantly in that prolonged aerial conflict. There were 32 pilots in No 302 Fighter Squadron, 34 in No 303 Fighter Squadron as well as 79 pilots in various RAF squadrons. Twenty-nine of those brave men perished. The first loss was Flying Officer Antoni Ostowicz of No 145 Squadron RAF who was shot down by Luftwaffe fighters south of Swanage on 11 August 1940.

Writing to supporters of the Polish Air Force Benevolent Fund in August 1971, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Lloyd reminded them that *"This year we commemorate the 31st Anniversary of the Battle of Britain – but which was in its importance the Battle of the Free World. Our "Few" were joined by the Polish Few...We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Poles. They kept fighting when others stopped – or failed to start – they rallied to our side when our position was none too good. In fact, in every command and in every activity of the Royal Air Force during the War we would find our gallant Comrades, the Poles."*



All of the badges featured on the memorial plaque belong to fighter, reconnaissance and bomber squadrons with a distinguished history such as No 307 Squadron known as the Eagle Owls of Lwów (now Lviv). Based in Exeter in 1942 and equipped with Beaufighter night fighters, they defended the city against a Luftwaffe attack on the night of 4 May driving off the marauders and thereby limiting damage to the city and

its terrified inhabitants.

The greatest losses of Polish aircrews were suffered at the height of the war by No 300 (Land of Mazovia) Bomber Squadron which had been formed at RAF Bramcote near Coventry on 1 July 1940. Their early sorties in Fairey Battle aircraft were targeted at French ports where, in September and October 1940, rafts of barges and other vessels were being assembled for the invasion of Britain, known then by Poles as the “Island of Last Hope” (*Wyspa Ostatniej Nadziei*).

To mark the centennial year of the Polish Air Force a memorial for the hundreds of Polish airmen who served at RAF Bramcote and the 18 Operational Training Units is being designed for a site in the Midlands. Donations for this project can be sent to The Secretary, Polish Airmen’s Association UK, POSK, 238–246 King Street, London, W6 0RF. All contributions will be acknowledged by letter.

A service of thanksgiving and remembrance for fallen Polish airmen will be held at St Clement Danes on 8 September 2018. All are welcome to attend.



Pictured above: The four pilots of No. 303 (Polish) Fighter Squadron who were the first Poles to be awarded DFCs for their role in the squadron's defence of London in September 1940. From the left: Witold Urbanowicz, Jan Zumbach, Mirosław Feric (died February 1942), Zdzisław Henneberg (died April 1941). Medals were awarded by Air Marshal Sir W Douglas Sholto at RAF Leconfield on 15 December 1940. Photo by P H F Tovey, official RAF photographer, courtesy of the Imperial War Museum (CH 1840).

The Friends of St Clement Danes Concert

Iza Seabrook

It was my pleasure to attend the annual Friends Concert last November. I don't often get a night out, so this was an extra special treat to meet up with old friends and listen to some amazing music in the most enchanting of settings. It was lovely to see so many people fill the pews.



The Central Band of the Royal Air Force and the St Clement Danes Choir put together a rousing and emotional programme that hit all the right spots.

If you can, I would advise you to make a trip to the concert this coming 29 November. It will be well worth it!





Readings and Services*

Date	Service	First Reading	Second Reading	Third Reading
18 March Lent 5	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Jeremiah 31.31 to 34	Hebrews 5. 5 to 10	John 12. 20 to 33
25 March Palm Sunday	Choral Eucharist	Isaiah 50.4 to 9a	Philippians 2.5 to 11	Passion according to St Mark
30 March Good Friday	Good Friday Liturgy	Isaiah 52: 13 to end of 53	Hebrews 10: 16 to 25	Passion Gospel according to John
1 April Easter Day RAF Formation Service	TBC			
8 April Easter 2	Choral Matins	Acts 4.32 to 35	John 20.19 to end	
15 April Easter 3	Choral Eucharist	Acts 3.12 to 19	1 John 3.1 to 7	Luke 24.36b to 48
22 April Easter 4	Choral Matins	Acts 4.5 to 12	John 10.11 to 18	
29 April Easter 5	Choral Eucharist and Cross of Nails dedication	Acts 8. 26 to 40	1 John 4. 7 to 21	John 15.1 to 8
6 May Easter 6	Choral Eucharist	Acts 10.44 to end	1 John 5.1 to 6	John 15. 9 to 17

*Correct as we go to press, but please check the website closer to the date or phone the church to confirm on 020 7242 8282.

All services start at 11am unless specified otherwise

13 May Easter 7	Choral Matins	Acts 1.15 to 17 and 21 to end	John 17. 6 to 19	
20 May Pentecost RAF Club	Choral Eucharist	Acts 2. 1 to 21	Romans 8.22 to 37	John 15.26, 27 and 16. 4b to 15
27 May Trinity Sunday	Choral Matins	Isaiah 6. 1 to 8	John 3. 1 to 17	
3 June Trinity 1	Choral Eucharist and Baptism	Deuteronomy 5.12 to 15	2 Corinthians 4. 5 to 12	Mark 2.23 to 3.6
10 June Trinity 2 Friends Service	Choral Matins	Genesis 3. 8 to 15	Mark 3. 20 to end	
17 June Trinity 3	Choral Eucharist	Ezekiel 17. 22 to 24	2 Corinthians 5.6 to 10 and 14 to 17	Mark 4. 26 to 34
24 June Trinity 4	Choral Matins	Job 38. 1 to 11	Mark 4. 35 to 41	
1 July Trinity 5	Choral Eucharist	Wisdom of Solomon 1. 13 to 15 and 2. 23 and 24	2 Corinthians 8.7 to 15	Mark 5. 21 to 43
8 July Trinity 6	Choral Matins	Ezekiel 2. 1 to 5	Mark 6.1 to 13	
10 July (Tuesday)	Prayers and Praises for the RAF's 100 anniversary			
15 July Trinity 7	Choral Eucharist	Amos 7. 7 to 15	Ephesians 1. 3 to 14	Mark 6. 14 to 29

22 July Trinity 8	Choral Matins	Jeremiah 23. 1 to 6	Mark 6.30 to 34 and 53 to end	
29 July Trinity 9	Choral Eucharist	2 Kings 4. 42 to end	Ephesians 3. 14 to 21	John 6. 1 to 21
5 August Trinity 10	Choral Eucharist	Exodus 16. 2 to 4 and 9 to 15	Ephesians 4. 1 to 16	John 6.24 to 35
12 August Trinity 11	Choral Matins	1 Kings 19. 4 to 8	John 6. 35 and 41 to 51	
19 August Trinity 12	Choral Eucharist	Proverbs 9. 1 to 6	Ephesians 5. 15 to 20	John 6. 51 to 58
26 August Trinity 13	Choral Matins	Joshua 24. 1 to 2a and 14 to 18	John 6.56 to 69	
2 September Trinity 14	Choral Eucharist	Deuteronomy 4. 1,2, and 6 to 9	James 1. 17 to end	Mark 7. 1 to 8, 14, 15 and 21 to 23
9 September Trinity 15	Choral Matins	Isaiah 35: 4 to 7a	Mark 7: 24 to 37	
16 September Trinity 16	BOB Service	1 Samuel 17: 38 to 49	Ephesians 6: 10 to 18	
23 September Trinity 17 Harvest Thanksgiving	Choral Matins	Joel 2.21 to 27	Matthew 6.25 to 33	
30 September Trinity 18	Choral Eucharist	Numbers 11. 4 to 6, 10 to 16 and 24 to 29	James 5. 13 to 20	Mark 9. 38 to 50

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of St Clement Danes, held in the Crypt Chapel

Thursday 20 November 2017

Present

Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Wg Cdr Di Bentley – Co-opted
Mr Michael Collas
Wg Cdr Chris 'CJ' Hill – Trustee
Mrs Mary Holtby
Gp Capt Peter Holtby
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr James McKinley
Wg Cdr Mick Meyer – Trustee
Revd David Osborn RAF – Resident Chaplain and Co-opted
Sqn Ldr Em Rogers RAF – Treasurer
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFVR (T) – Trustee
Mr Chris C K Priebe – Secretary
Ms Peta Walmisley
Mr E Robin G Youle
Mrs Jennifer Youle

Apologies

Mr John Bayles
Revd Dr Giles Legood RAF – Trustee
Mr Peter Neville-Lewis – Trustee
Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Mr Roger Round – Trustee
Miss Fiona Youle

1. Prayer

The Resident Chaplain opened the AGM with a prayer.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman paid tribute to Freddie Bircher, a longstanding former Trustee and Secretary to the Friends. Details of Freddie's memorial service, due to take place on December 11, 2017, were shared. The Chairman would be attending to represent the Friends.

The program to recruit new Friends from serving RAF personnel was ramped up during the year, with representatives from every RAF station and unit identified and appointed.

The Chairman apologised for the problems caused by the double charging of subscriptions via the Direct Debit system. The circumstances surrounding this error were explained. It was noted that at least one member had resigned as a result.

A number of Trustees would be stepping down this year, including: Sqn Ldr Sherry Jessup RAF; Wg Cdr Tina Jessup RAF; Sqn Ldr Lorna Hoban RAF (LH); and Rev Dr Giles Legood RAF. All were thanked for their service to the Friends.

The Friends has been active in making grants to the church this year, which had been gratefully received.

4. Election of Officers and Trustees

The Chairman thanked Trustees for their service over the past year.

Jenny Youle proposed and Michael Collas seconded the election of the following Trustees for the coming year:

Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Wg Cdr Chris Hill
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr Peter Neville-Lewis
Wg Cdr Mick Meyer – Events Manager
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFVR (T)

Mr Christopher Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Em Rogers RAF – Treasurer

Co-Opted

Wg Cdr Diana Bentley

Revd David Osborn RAF – Resident Chaplain

The resolution was passed unanimously on a show of hands.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM had been made available via the Spring 2017 edition of O&L magazine and the Chairman asked if there were any questions. There being none, the minutes were accepted unanimously on a show of hands.

6. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30th June 2017 were distributed (see Page 32).

The Treasurer detailed the various sources of cash inflows and outflows. On the receipts side, it was noted that £5,000 of the donations made to the Friends derived from a generous legacy. Last year's Friends Annual Concert was profitable, as, in addition to ticket sales of £2,929, £400 of donations for refreshments were received. Included in 'Miscellaneous Income' is a £1,400 refund of VAT. On the payments side, grants of £1,775 were made, representing 15% of total expenditure. Overall, Friends funds increased by £10,632 during the year and stood at £61,153 at 30 June 2017.

Additionally, it was explained that the 'Restricted Funds' column in the accounts relates to a donation made specifically to promote music at St Clement Danes. At the end of the accounting year to 30 June 2016 £1,111 of the original donation was available to carry forward. £449 of sheet music purchases were made in the year, leaving £662 available for future acquisitions.

Questions were asked as follows:

- Reason for the reduction in subscriptions received? Overall membership numbers had fallen, particularly those paying by standing order. Some give up their membership after only a year.
- Overseas members? These number 4 persons.
- Oranges & Lemons Magazine distribution? Goes to all current members as a means of disseminating official notices, etc. Non-member recipients are asked to make a donation.
- Could O&L be distributed electronically? Only an incomplete list of member e-mails exists.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Ms Peta Walmisley, seconded by Gp Cpt Peter Holtby and passed unanimously on a show of hands. Given the scale of Friends Receipts and Payments, an independent audit was not required by the Charity Commission and not recommended by the Trustees.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Treasurer reported on the fallout of the accidental double collection of subscriptions by Direct Debit, for which apologies were reiterated. Eight of those affected had been happy for the Friends to keep their overpayments. Ten had cancelled their Direct Debit instructions and it was assumed also resigned as members of the Friends. The agency responsible for the error had waived their usual processing fee.

As of 1 January 2017 membership numbers stood at 678. Whereas as of 2 weeks ago, partly as a result of the direct debit issue, there were 661 members. Twelve new members joined the Friends – 10 annual, one life, and one corporate. However, 31 had left – 17 annual, three life; with 11 passing away. Currently there are 399 life members, three honorary members, five corporate members and 254 paying annually. In two cases, Direct Debits were being made, but O&L Magazines had been returned. Efforts were being made to confirm all address details.

8. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that a number of events were planned to mark the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAF, including an Easter Day

service at St Clement Danes. 100 days after the service – on 10 July – further celebrations and commemorations would take place.

The Chairman was also pleased to inform members that the Chief of Air Staff was very engaged with St Clement Danes and as a keen photographer had volunteered to provide a photo for the Friends' next Christmas card.

The Friends Trustees have resolved to commission the composition of new music for the church, to be premiered at the Easter Day service. Copyright will belong to the church and potentially provide a new stream of income, bolstering Friends' income.

Wg Cdr Meyer was thanked for his hard work organising this evening's Annual Friends Concert, at which the Central Band of the Royal Air Force would feature. Ticket sales were reported to be noticeably up on 2016.

Mrs Youle informed the AGM that Padre Thomas, the main individual responsible for setting up the Friends, who featured on the cover of the Autumn 2016 edition of O&L Magazine had a special birthday in December and, although he would not be able to attend tonight's concert, would be joining the Easter Day Formation Service in 2018.

Wg Cdr Hill alerted the AGM to the changes taking place on 28 May 2018 under the General Data Protection Act. Essentially, communications to members would only be permitted with their express consent.

Volunteers to act as Trustees of the Friends were asked to make themselves known to the Chairman / Secretary.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 29 November 2018 at 4pm: concert to be held at 7pm.

2018 Friends Service to take place on Sunday 10 June at 11am.

C C K Priebe
Secretary

Group Captain M D Heffron
Chairman

Financial Report for the AGM Accounting Year Ending 30 June 2017

The CC16A, which records the income and expenditure categories on which we report to the Charity Commission at the end of the year, is shown on the next two pages. The figures are rounded up or down to the nearest whole pound in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines and this rounding can induce errors of addition (usually of £1) within the accounts as displayed. Explanations of key areas are given in the paragraphs below.

Our total income was £23,634 (£18,506 last year) against a budgeted income of £15,000. Total donations for the year exceeded the £1,000 budget at £10,543 (£5,295 last year), including a very generous £5,000 donation on behalf of a Friend who had sadly passed away. Sales from Christmas cards raised £136 (£100 last year) whilst ties and other miscellaneous items held at the Church amounted to £903 (£827 last year); above the £750 total budget for both items. The concert raised £2,929 (£2,358 last year) from ticket sales and £416 from contributions towards refreshments (£346 last year, shown under the miscellaneous income category). Bank interest was £2 (£47 last year). Subscription income was lower than the £7,000 budgeted and amounted to £6,139 (£7,763 last year). We received no income from the main Church as Guild contributions from weddings held (£306 last year) and £1,170 (£475 last year) was received from the Easter Service to offset the cost of flowers. Finally a refund of VAT amounting to £1,396 was received for repairs made last year to the Carillon; this is included within the miscellaneous income category.

Expenditure for the year was £13,002 (£24,752 last year), against a start of year budget of £15,000. Grants totalled £1,775 (£13,540 last year) against a budget of £3,000. These covered payments for panic alarms for Church staff, a defibrillator and a new burse & Veil. Payment for the

issues of the Oranges & Lemons, including printing costs, postage and editor fees were under the £5,600 budget at £5,023 (£5,019 last year). The Concert and Friends Service were well within the budget of £4,000 at £3,024 (£2,924 last year) and other costs for the Easter Service flowers amounted to £558 (£448 last year). A donation made in 2015 amounting to £1,500 had a specific condition on that it should be spent to increase the music held by the church, and is treated as 'Restricted'. The balance of £1,111 was carried forward into the current financial year to enable further purchases and £449 has been spent on replenishing sheet music stocks. Therefore the balance of £662 is available for spend in the current financial year. Bank charges for the running of the BACS system for membership direct debits were £577 (£807 last year). A further £784 (£850 last year) of general charitable and miscellaneous expenditure was incurred for the purchase of Christmas cards, with £250 towards a morning suit for Guild use (none last year). Expenditure is completed by printing and stationery expenses (£36 compared to £294 last year), and Trustee expenses (£527 compared to £437 last year).

At the end of the year we had a surplus of income amounting to £10,632 and we ended the year with our Bank Accounts holding £61,153 (£50,521 last year).

In accordance with Charity Commission Regulations, as our income is below £25,000, we do not require an audit or Independent Examination. Your Trustees are content that the information presented herein is a true and accurate statement of the financial affairs of the Friends of Saint Clement Danes and therefore recommend that the financial statements be endorsed by the AGM without additional external scrutiny.

Therefore, if agreed by the members present, it is proposed to lodge the CC16A, as presented, with the Charity Commission.



Charity Name Friends of St Clement Danes Church	No (if any) 1048757
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period From	Period start date 01-Jul-16	To	Period end date 30-Jun-17
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	10,543	-	-	10,543	5,295
Legacy Bequests	-	-	-	-	1,000
Christmas Card Sales	136	-	-	136	100
Ties and other Misc Sales	903	-	-	903	827
Concert Ticket Sales	2,929	-	-	2,929	2,358
Easter Service	1,170	-	-	1,170	465
Miscellaneous Income	1,812	-	-	1,812	346
Bank Interest	2	-	-	2	47
Guild Fees	-	-	-	-	306
Subscriptions	6,139	-	-	6,139	7,763
Sub total	23,634	-	-	23,634	18,506
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,634	-	-	23,634	18,506
A3 Payments					
Grants to Main Church	1,775	-	-	1,775	13,540
Guild Purchases	250	-	-	250	-
Friends Concert Payments	3,024	-	-	3,024	2,924
Easter Service	558	-	-	558	448
Sheet Music Purchases	-	449	-	449	389
Miscellaneous Payments	-	-	-	-	44
Oranges & Lemons	5,023	-	-	5,023	5,019
General Charitable Expenditure	784	-	-	784	850
Support Costs - Trustee Expenses	527	-	-	527	437
Support Costs - Printing & Stationery	36	-	-	36	294
Bank Charges	577	-	-	577	807
Sub total	12,553	449	-	13,002	24,752
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	12,553	449	-	13,002	24,752
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,081	- 449	-	10,632	- 6,246
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	49,410	1,111	-	50,521	56,767
Cash funds this year end	60,491	662	-	61,153	50,521

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit Account	13,338	662	-
	Unity Trust Account	44,976		-
	Current Account	2,177	-	-
	Total cash funds	60,491	662	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	OK	OK	OK
Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets			
Nil	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			
Nil		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			
Nil		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			
Nil		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M D Heffron	30-Nov-17
	E Rogers	30-Nov-17

Membership Report

We started 2017 with 678 members and the current membership stands at 661 active members with a further 2 records which are inactive but still paying their DD. In the calendar year to date we have gained 12 new members (10 Annual, 1 Corporate and 1 Life), 1 Life member has transferred to an Annual payer and one Annual payer has transferred to Life membership (both having applied before the cut-off for life membership).

Our numbers have reduced by 31 members (3 Life members, 7 members paying by DD and a member paying by Standing Order notified as deceased, and a total of 20 cancellations; 17 from Annual payers with 3 from Life members).

Membership statistics are 399 Life members, 3 Honorary¹ members, 5 Corporate members and 256 Annual subscribers. Of the annual subscribers, 2 membership records are not active (Oranges and Lemons magazine returned 'not at this address', no contact following letter via Bank and direct debits still active); they remain included within the membership numbers for holistic record keeping.

Of the 261 members (including Corporate members) paying annually, 211 pay by direct debit (including the 2 direct debits as noted above), 30 pay by cheque (including 4 overseas payers) and 20 pay by standing order.

The breakdown of current membership in the various categories is as follows:

Life Membership:	399 (Joint 97, Single 302)
Honorary Membership:	3
Corporate Membership:	5 (Cash/Chq 2, DD 3)
Annual Subscribers:	254 (Joint – Cash/Chq 5, DD 65, SO 7, Overseas 1; Single – Cash/Chq 19, DD 141, SO 13, Overseas 3)
Records Being Clarified:	2

¹Honorary members are HRH the Duke of Gloucester, Flt Lt Perring (who is our Cadet Liaison Trustee) and Mrs Dockerill (wife of a founder member of the Friends).

New Rules on Data Protection with effect from 25 May 2018

The laws relating to data protection and privacy are changing in 2018 with the introduction of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which replaces the current Data Protection Act 1998. The GDPR becomes law on 25 May 2018 and has a greater emphasis on consent to use personal information.

The Friends of St Clement Danes hold personal data in respect of each member and we use this information to manage your membership. Areas where we use the information include: sending out notice of the AGM in Oranges & Lemons, collecting annual subscription fees and claiming Gift Aid where appropriate.

Under the GDPR we are currently applying to register as a data holder, as such this will reinforce the requirement for us to ensure that the personal information that you have shared with us will be properly held and protected. Do please be reassured that your information will be held and protected appropriately. Under the GDPR you can ask for a copy of the personal data that we hold for you and you can ask for your personal data to be removed.

Further information is available at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>

Life in the University of London Air Squadron

Owen Thomas



For a very long time I have wanted to pursue a career in the Royal Air Force as a pilot. So, when I knew I was going to study Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, the obvious next step was to consider joining the University of London Air Squadron (ULAS). As a student, being an Officer Cadet with a University Air Squadron (UAS) enables you to experience life in the RAF first-hand, before joining up. After initial enquiries before and during Freshers' week in October 2016, my application to join the squadron proceeded to various interviews, fitness and medical screening and a series of application forms. Once accepted, I had to swear an oath of allegiance to The Queen as Head of State and sign the Official Secrets Act. I am now in my second year on the squadron.

The other attraction of being in London was St Clement Danes and my own family connections. My father has been a member of the Guild, a sidesman and regular

reader of lessons. His father, my grandfather, Group Captain The Reverend John Thomas, had in turn been Resident Chaplain at the church for five years, between 1971 to 1976. It was only natural that I would renew the family links, if possible.

The University Air Squadrons were set up following an idea from the founder of the Royal Air Force, Lord Trenchard. His aim was to provide the RAF with a reserve force, similar to the Territorial Army, by making flying training available to students progressing through university. The first squadron was formed in 1925 at Cambridge, with Oxford and London soon following.

My own squadron, ULAS, is the third oldest UAS (formed in September 1935); most of the remaining UASs being formed in 1941. There are currently 15 squadrons throughout the UK, with squadrons flying from stations ranging from RAF Wittering (for ULAS) to MOD (formerly RAF) St Athan (for the Universities of Wales Air Squadron) and RAF Leuchars (for East of Scotland Universities Air Squadron).

ULAS itself has a rich history; the first female Red Arrows pilot, Kirsty Stewart, was once a member. During the WW2 ULAS contributed heavily to the RAF's supply of pilots. Out of the squadron's 150 pre-war members, 42 members of the squadron were killed in action, four received the DSO, two an MBE and 19 received the DFC.

There are wide arrays of opportunities available in ULAS, such as flying (all UAS's currently fly the Grob Tutor aircraft), adventure training, leadership training and force development.



Pictured above: members of ULAS standing in front of a Grob Tutor at RAF Wittering – Owen Thomas is second from the right

I have had the opportunity to fly at ULAS's flying base at RAF Wittering, attend strike exercises at RAF Cranwell, and take part in ceremonial events such as the 99th anniversary service of the RAF here at St Clement Danes in April 2017. ULAS is now based at RAF Northolt having had stints around South Kensington and Knightsbridge; this is where the weekly 'Town Nights' take place. Town Nights are an opportunity for the squadron to get together and socialise, practice leadership tasks, and listen to various different guest speakers from the RAF and wider military community.

Not all members of UASs decide that a military career is for them, but many members do go on to have long and successful careers in the services. The Royal Air Force has done and continues to use the UASs as a major recruiting tool. I am going through the process of Officer selection at the time of writing and hope to successfully complete it in spring.



Legacy Appeal

If St Clement Danes is as important to you as the thousands of people it remembers within its walls, we would ask you to consider leaving a gift in your Will for the future preservation and maintenance of this beautiful sanctuary.

More information is on our website:

www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdanes/friendsofscd/legacygiving

Application to become a Friend of St Clement Danes

Please complete and return to: The Friends of St Clement Danes,
Strand, London WC2R 1DH

Current Categories to join the Friends are:

Normal Membership by Direct Debit

Corporate Rates please contact the Membership Secretary at the church.

Serving RAF Personnel please contact your Station Representative

Membership renewals are made from 1 July each year. Part-year subscriptions may be made initially to cover an intermediate period.

Please tick the category that you are applying for:

- I wish to join as a single member** and authorise a debit of £25pa**
- We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a debit of £38pa**

*** From my account until further notice; I enclose a completed Direct Debit instruction (page 38)*

- I enclose a completed **Gift Aid Declaration** (turn page)

Name and Surname.....
RAF Rank (if applicable).....
Address.....
.....
.....Postcode.....
Telephone.....Email.....
Signature.....Date.....

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I would like The Friends of St Clement Danes to reclaim tax paid on all donations and subscriptions I have made to this charity since 6 April 2012 and any such future payments. I realise that I can only sign this Gift Aid certificate if I have paid enough in Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all charities that I donate to will reclaim for each tax year. Council Tax & VAT do not count and I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I know I can cancel this declaration at any time by advising The Friends of St Clement Danes.

Signature.....Date.....



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Originator's Identification Number **9 4 2 2 6 7**

Please fill in the whole form and send it to: Hon Treasurer, The Friends of St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2R 1DH

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank or Building Society
Address	Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

3. Branch Sort Code
(from the top righthand corner of your cheque)

4. Bank/Building Society account number

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5. Reference Number
(Hon Treasurer to complete)

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6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay The Friends of St Clement Danes direct debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with The Friends of St Clement Danes and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)
Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account.

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
**St Clement
Danes Church**



Our mission is to encourage growth in the membership of the Friends of St Clement Danes through promotion of what St Clement Danes provides spiritually, socially and culturally.

Central Church of the Royal Air Force
Strand, London, WC2R 1DH
www.raf.mod.uk/stclementdanes



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