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# Oranges & Lemons

**COVER STORY: Remembering  
Dick Churchill**



**The Friends of  
St Clement Danes**

**Issue No. 49  
Spring 2020**

# **The Friends of St Clement Danes**

Registered Charity No. 1048757

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## **O&L Bulletin**

Daniel Kettle Esq (*Manager*)  
Iza Seabrook (*Editor*)

# The Friends of St Clement Danes

Bulletin  
No. 49  
Spring 2020

 **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 current issue of Oranges & Lemons. In an ever-changing world, we all need some peace and time to reflect, rest. Our church is a perfect place for both.

I hope you find time to visit us soon. Please do share this magazine with Friends and Family. If you have articles or pictures you wish to see published, please email me: [iza.seabrook@gmail.com](mailto:iza.seabrook@gmail.com)

## THINGS TO DO

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

Please contact us: 020 7242 8282 or **[stclementdanes1@btconnect.com](mailto:stclementdanes1@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.

## Chairman's Letter

Group Captain Mark D Heffron MA FCIS CMgr FCMI RAF



May I take this opportunity to thank those members who attended our Annual General Meeting last November and in particular those of you who have expressed interest in joining our Board of Trustees. We will shortly have all positions filled, including those of Membership Secretary and Treasurer, vital to keeping the organisation on track and in good relations with the Charities Commission and the church!

We welcome both Squadron Leader Gavin Turnbull and Mr Scott Williamson to the Board. That said, if you are interested in joining us, or assisting in our work in any way, do get in touch. On the subject of Board members, we said goodbye at the AGM to Squadron Leader Emrys Rogers, who has been the Friends Treasurer for the past 11 years. He has also recently undertaken the role of Membership Secretary in addition! Em has used his wealth of experience, which he has amassed as a Personnel Support officer in the Service, but departs us as he moves to pastures new outside the Royal Air Force. We wish him well and thank him for his dedicated service to the RAF and to the Friends.

Finally, I thank all those members who supported the Annual Concert last year, I am delighted to report yet another resoundingly successful evening with more people hearing of the great work that we all do for the Central Church of the Royal Air Force.

## From the Resident Chaplain

The Reverend David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF



By the time you will be reading this the worst of the winter will be over (I sincerely hope) and we shall be moving in to spring, a season that encapsulates all that is hopeful in our lives. As you are aware even the old Anglo-Saxon word for spring, eastas, brings us the joy of the news of the resurrection of our Lord on the morning of the third day.

So it is with hope, joy and the prospect of Easter that encourages me to sing the praises of all those who have contributed to this edition of O & L. We remain one of the few churches to publish, formally, a high quality magazine which is sent to over 700 people across the world – because we believe that there is nothing like a hard copy of a magazine to prompt you to read it, keep it and of course collect it (back copies are available on eBay I believe).

As always, I wish to express my personal thanks to all those of you who contribute so much to the life and work of the Central Church of the RAF and to the Friends in particular. Everyone at St Clement Danes Church is grateful for your support and commitment to our ministry in this place.

Therefore (unless you are reading this in the southern hemisphere, in which case the nights are drawing in) have a great spring and wherever you are, join us in rejoicing in the good news of Easter Day.

## 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 throughout the Easter season.

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

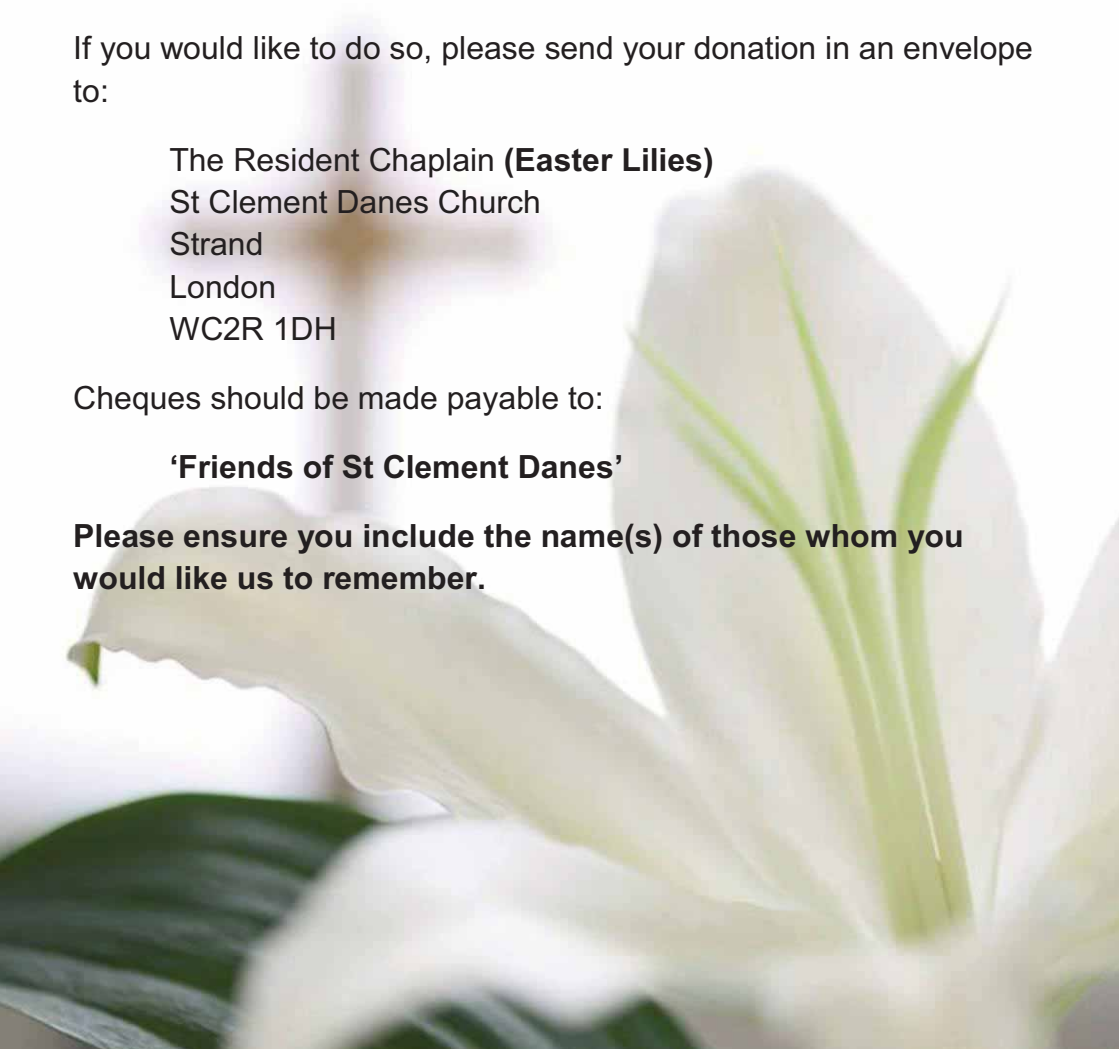
If you would like to do so, please send your donation in an envelope to:

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.**





# COVER STORY: Remembering Dick Churchill (A Eulogy 19 September 2019)

David Churchill



It is wonderful to see so many friends and family here today, come pay tribute to my father. You might not have known him personally but wish to honour the memory of one of the Great Escapers. Some of you have crossed continents to be here and I know he would be very touched by that.

When he died in February this year, my brother Roger and I thought long and hard as to how best to organise a memorial service to his very long and very exceptional life. Seeing that he was not a religious person and the RAF was such a key part in his life, a service here, at St Clement Danes, was deemed

the most appropriate. This is a place he was very fond of and which he attended for various commemorations to do with the Great Escape, so we thought it would probably be the most gratifying to him.

In addition, as his death occurred just weeks before the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Escape, it seemed fitting to extend this event and include a memorial to all the 76 men who escaped through the tunnel on the 24 March 1944.

On behalf of our family I would like to thank the RAF and Wing Commander Osborn for allowing us to use the church today. My job has been made much easier by the fact that Dad not only retained an excellent memory but liked to recount his stories at every



opportunity to friends and family. Plus he kept extensive documentary records, some of which I can share with you today.

'Richard Sydney Albion Churchill', to paraphrase Winston 'some name, some man...' A name which he always believed saved his life although in fact there is no known direct connection between ours and the Marlborough branch of the Churchill family.

Known to friends and family as Dick, he was born on the 21 January 1920 in East Molesey, Surrey. He had two older sisters, Josie and Sheila and a younger brother Jack. Blessed with exceptional intelligence and determination of spirit, he excelled at school gaining a much sought after place at Tiffins Grammar School for boys. He was a keen oarsman, rowing competitively for both Molesey and Kingston boat clubs. He learned to play the violin and retained a passion for classical music,

particularly opera, throughout his life. He was a prodigious reader of books and as a result amassed an encyclopedic knowledge about a number of subjects.



After a spell as an apprentice engineer, he set his sights on flying and joined the RAF in October 1938 on a short service commission as an Acting Pilot Officer. He gained his wings after training at Prestwick and was initially posted to 142 Squadron at RAF Bicester,

followed by 106 Squadron at Finningley: flying Fairey Battle planes which were still operational aircraft although already extremely obsolete.

A story he often recounted from this time reflected the exceptional luck with which he seemed to be blessed. He was instructed to fly the open cock-pitted plane from Finningley to another airfield and collect two mechanics. The flight up was uneventful, however, on the return journey the weather deteriorated badly. In heavy snow, with visibility almost at zero and unable to navigate by the usual visual methods – sighting rivers and church spires – he became hopelessly lost. The aircraft was rapidly running out of fuel, so he turned to the two, by now very anxious, mechanics and suggested that it might be a good time to bail out, “No parachutes!” came the reply.



Shortly afterwards the engine stopped and he had no choice but to descend in the hope the cloud cover would break before he hit the ground. It did, to his great relief and to his good fortune he saw they were over a freshly ploughed field with furrows running in their direction of travel. The aircraft was still going too fast to stop so he was forced to lift it over the hedge. To his horror the next field had furrows going the other way and the plane pivoted on its nose and came to rest with the engine buried in the ground. No injuries were sustained but there was one wrecked Fairey Battle, “My first prang,”

he noted in his logbook. It was the first, but not the last, plane crash he would survive.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, he was assigned to 144 Squadron at Hemswell to fly Handley-Paige Hampden medium bombers. Mark Postlethwaite's definitive book on the Hampden provides all the information you ever need to know about this workhorse of Bomber Command. Dad was not one of its greatest fans: "Outdated, slow, under-armed, poor payload and with an impossibly narrow fuselage making moving around extremely difficult for the crew," was his summary.

Nevertheless, as Postlethwaite notes 144 Squadron was a busy one - it carried out the most raids and suffered the most losses of any Hampden squadron. Between May and September 1940 Dad flew 26 operational missions, including the very first bombing raid on Berlin. "We received a very warm reception over Berlin," he recalled. "Dropped our bombs and then only just made it back as it was absolutely at the limit of a Hampden's range".

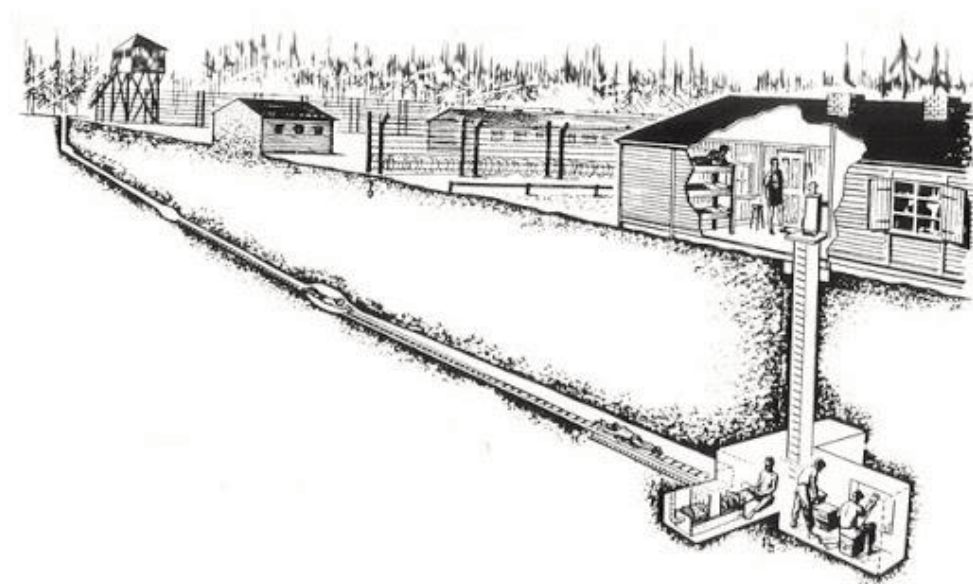
When you consider the average survival rate in Bomber Command was around eight sorties (at this time) he was very fortunate. His luck ran out on the night of 2 September 1940, on his 27<sup>th</sup> mission, this time to bomb the oil and chemical complex at Ludwigshafen. His aircraft was shot down near Maastricht by a Messerschmitt Bf 109 night fighter.

Two of his crew were killed outright in the attack. Both he and his navigator were injured but managed to get out of the burning aircraft. His descent by parachute was so short that after opening – it was only a few seconds before he hit the ground, bursting his left eardrum. His ankle was already broken as he got stuck in the half-open canopy above the pilot's seat while exiting the plane. He lost both of his flying boots. Inevitably, in that condition, there was little chance of evading capture and so began four long years as a POW.

Initially he was sent to Stalag Luft 1 on the Baltic coast, "an escapers dream," as he described it. Indeed there were so many

escapes and escape attempts (involving P/O Churchill) that the Luftwaffe eventually designed the more robust, supposedly escape-proof, Stalag Luft 3 near Sagan in the pine forest wastes of Silesia.

From his arrival there in 1942 until 1944 he continued his efforts to escape. He was involved in the successful Wooden Horse break-out by three POWs and I quote from this letter of 1998 to his surviving Great Escape friends: "I was at the first post-war Oxford and Cambridge boat race with Oliver Philpott (one of the three who got out in the Wooden Horse). He bought the beers that day in recompense for the many hours of vaulting and lugging that damn box around that he had persuaded me to undertake, along with other philanthropists for what seemed like a most unlikely scheme".



His ticket as one of the 200 selected for the Great Escape was due to the huge work he put in as a 'digger'. It almost killed him, twice, as tunnel collapses buried him. Only the quick reaction of colleagues prevented him from suffocating, as they pulled him out.

He teamed up with a great friend, Gordon Kidder, a Royal Canadian Airforce officer and skilled linguist who coached him for months in the basics of the Romanian language. Sadly a few days before the

escape, Roger Bushell requested that Kidder and Tom Girby-Green team up, since both were fluent in several languages and stood the best chance of evading capture. So he dropped from around number 25 to 55 and teamed up with Bob Nelson, a talented engineer who had designed the air system for the tunnel and who had been learning Swedish.

My father recalled that they both had a quiet laugh about the unlikely vision of a Swede and a Romanian plodding through the snows of Silesia hundreds of miles from their respective homelands!

After evading capture for four days they were re-caught and held with most of the other escapers in one cramped cell at the Gestapo jail in Gorlitz. The numbers dwindled as small groups were taken away two at a time, and it became clear that something disturbing was underway. The memory of those events remained very raw for him for the rest of his life and he always referred to it as “the murder of the 50”. He gave valuable evidence to the war crimes commission which assisted in the conviction of some of those involved in the murders.

The surviving members of the Great Escape formed an informal club, named by Bob Nelson as the Sagan Select Subway Society. It kept in touch by letter and annual get-togethers. One of the last



meetings is shown in the photo dated 1994 in the Order of Service.

Typical of Dad's natural kindness and hospitality was his invitation to the members of this club and their wives to come

and stay at the farm in Devon for the annual get together in 1990.



Six couples attended and on a warm August day, while they enjoyed drinks on the terrace, two RAF fighter jets appeared out of the clear blue sky and performed a series of low passes.

Dad had contacted the base commander at RAF Chivenor in North Devon, informing him that a group of elderly ex-RAF officers who'd been involved with a tunnel during the war were having a reunion. The commander duly obliged with a small 'detour' from a routine training session.

In our family, growing up as children with the knowledge of our father's involvement in the Great Escape, we have perhaps not fully appreciated its importance. Now, with the benefit of age and the privilege of reading his copious archive, I have come to realise its true significance. It is without doubt one of the greatest feats of bravery, ingenuity and defiance against overwhelming odds of the Second World War.

Dick Churchill did not see himself as a hero, in fact it grated with him every time a news article made such a reference. He would say: "If you want heroism look at Jimmy James, no 39 out through the tunnel, recaptured and with a history of multiple prior escape attempts sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp from where unbelievably he also escaped by tunneling under a 1000 volt wire fence, recaptured again before passing through both Flossenburg and Dachau concentration camps ... and survived!"

On his return to England, following liberation, the damage to his eardrum meant that he was no longer able to resume active flying duties. He started a new administrative career with considerable reluctance, in Transport Command.

His disappointment at not being able to fly was transformed on a cold January day in 1948 when, whilst waiting for a train at Esher Station, he was approached by a beautiful dark haired woman who offered him a sugared almond. He had met his beloved Trishy – the best thing that ever happened to him, by his own admission – and they would remain together for the next 65 years.

A successful business career followed as Export director with Holts products and then Dunlop Group. He took early retirement and our family moved to Devon in the late 1970s.

He was a fantastic father to Roger and me, always willing to offer advice and help but at the same time allowing us exceptional freedom of action, which was unusual for that era. He was capable of quite staggering gestures of generosity and kindness, traits of character which were reflected in the work he did for many years on behalf of the RAF Benevolent Fund.

That spirit of determination which had contributed so much to his survival during the war was called into play again in old age when he suffered his first heart attack in 1998.



In 2010 he fell and broke his right hip and while recovering from the hip replacement surgery in hospital he suffered another heart attack, "If you are going to have a heart attack ... not a bad place to be!" I remember him saying.

However, the damage to his arteries was so severe that it required heart surgery. The surgeon warned that at the age of 90 it was not something he was happy to undertake and stood less than a 50% chance of success. Dad insisted the operation proceed and incredibly he pulled through.





In 2016 he fell again and broke his other hip. This time, whilst recovering from hip surgery, he contracted pneumonia and passed into a coma for which the prognosis was dire. The family was informed that his chances of survival were zero. Once again, he defied the odds and made what the doctors described as 'a truly miraculous recovery', only to fall again within six months. A further spell in hospital followed with yet another astounding recovery.



Despite all his medical problems, the death of my mother in 2013 was the most difficult thing for him to accept and, indeed, he never fully recovered from that. But he soldiered on and despite his increasing

frailty he agreed to give one last interview to the BBC in December 2017. It was agreed that the interview should not exceed 20 minutes but as was so typical of him, once started, the memories came flooding back and with a clarity and precision that was remarkable for someone who was one month shy of 98. I do hope the BBC will publish the recording in full as it is a wonderful testament to both him as a person and to the events which he recounts.

I leave you with the words he wrote to fellow Great Escaper and friend Tony Bethell in 1999, following the sad news of Douglas Poynter's and Bob Nelson's serious illnesses:

"No doubt about it – we all die – and some of us have had the great good fortune to live for many decades beyond what seemed likely.

But to end up in such a sad state seems to nullify much of that advantage.

As Macauley put it so aptly:

'To every man upon this earth  
death cometh soon or late,  
and how can man die better  
than facing fearful odds,  
for the ashes of his fathers  
and the temples of his Gods'.

These were words that sustained my belief in 1940!"

I miss him hugely.

Thank you.

## **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 apply for an entry in The Trustees' Book please email: [st.clementasst@btconnect.com](mailto:st.clementasst@btconnect.com) and request an application form.

## What a Night

### Wing Commander Mick Meyer

The annual Friends of St Clement Danes Church Concert took place on a chilly night in late November. The youngsters of No 296 (Stoke Newington) Squadron ATC provided a very smart Guard of Honour. Group Captain Mark Heffron, Chairman of the Friends, undertook the welcome.



Members of the audience were treated to a rousing programme of world-class music performed by the Band of the RAF Regiment under the direction of Flight Lieutenant Thomas Rodda accompanied by the Choir of St Clement Danes led by their Director of Music, Simon Over. After such a fantastic evening no performance would be complete without a Christmas carol and so it was that the evening concluded with the audience joining together to sing a hearty Hark the Herald Angels Sing. A brilliant night!



Our next concert is planned for Thursday 26 November 2020. Please enter the date in your diary! We appreciate that in some cases it might be difficult to attend, but please do support the concert if you can. We advertise the event at all manner of locations and on social media; however, the concert is primarily for you, the Friends. Ticketing arrangements for the next concert will be published in the autumn edition of O&L – look out for the details and we look forward to welcoming you at the concert!





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

**Thursday 28 November 2019**

## **Present**

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

## **Apologies**

Mr John Bayles  
Mrs Mary Holtby  
Ms Francis Leigh

## **1. Prayer**

The Resident Chaplain opened the AGM with a prayer.

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies were noted.



### **3. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the AGM.

The Patron in Chief, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, had written indicating that he had very much enjoyed attending last year's Friends Concert and meeting the members of the Board of Trustees and the audience members. Flatteringly, HRH is keen to continue supporting the Friends as Patron in Chief, even though he is relinquishing duties elsewhere. Additionally, the new Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mike Wigston, was reported to be delighted to assume patronage of the Friends. The Chairman had updated both Patrons on developments at the Friends. Sadly, neither would be able to attend the concert this year.

The Chairman also reported that the Friends Treasurer and interim Membership Secretary, Squadron Leader Emrys Rogers, would be stepping down from his roles at the end of the year.

As Trustee numbers are reducing, the Chairman asked if any of those attending the AGM would be willing to become Trustees or, indeed, if they knew of others who might like to volunteer to become a Trustee. Volunteers to act as Trustees of the Friends were asked to make themselves known to the Chairman / Secretary.

The Chairman also thanked all members of the Friends for their contributions to our work and that of St Clement Danes during the past year.

### **4. Election of Officers and Trustees**

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

David Savage proposed and Peta Walmisley seconded the election of the following Trustees for the coming year:

The Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President  
Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman  
Mr Michael Collas  
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

Co-Opted

Wg Cdr Di 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 2019 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, Peter Neville Lewis proposing and Di Bentley seconding.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 June 2019 were distributed.

The Treasurer detailed the various sources of cash inflows and outflows. With £19,333 on the receipts side and £16,328 of expenditure, a surplus of £3,005 was reported for the year. As a result, a total cash balance of £69,182 existed on the 30 June 2019.

The Treasurer explained that as receipts for the year were less than £25,000, a formal audit of the accounts was not required under Charity Commission rules. However, in view of the fact that the Treasurer was about to step down, Trustees at the last Board meeting thought it prudent for an independent review of the accounts to be conducted. This was performed by a member of the accounting staff at RAF Henlow who endorsed the receipts and payments.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by CJ Hill, seconded by Robin Youle and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

Copies of the Membership Report were distributed.

The Treasurer reported membership numbers currently stand at 620, down from 643 at the start of 2019.

## **8. Any Other Business**

The Chairman explained that the Band of The Royal Air Force Regiment would be playing in the Friends Concert this evening. Many members of the band also play in the Central Band of the RAF.

Mrs Youle mentioned her family was sorry to hear of the death of Padre Thomas, who founded the Friends and christened Fiona Youle. She thought the article in the autumn edition of O&L Magazine was a nice tribute to him.

Two members were reported not to have received the latest edition of O&L Magazine. The Treasurer asked to be provided with details of the members concerned.

The Chairman thanked Sqn Ldr Em Rogers for his 11 years of service as Treasurer to the Friends. A presentation of champagne was made as a mark of appreciation.

## **9. Dates for 2020 Meeting**

Trustees Meeting – Thursday 16 January at 2pm in the Crypt Chapel

Trustees Meeting – Thursday 23 April at 2pm in the Crypt Chapel

Friends Service – Sunday 14 June at 11am

Trustees Meeting – Thursday 24 September at 2pm in the Crypt Chapel

Trustees Lunch and Meeting – Thursday 26 November at 1pm (venue to be confirmed at The George pub)

Friends AGM – Thursday 26 November at 4pm in the Crypt Chapel

Friends Annual Concert – Thursday 26 November at 7pm

C. C. K. Priebe  
Secretary

Group Captain M. D. Heffron  
Chairman

## **Financial Report for the AGM Accounting Year Ending 30 June 2019**

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 following 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 £19,333 (£21,174 last year) against a budgeted income of £15,000. Total donations for the year exceeded the £1,000 budget at £7,455 (£7,011 last year), including a £1,000 legacy bequest from the estate of a deceased Friend. Sales from Christmas cards, ties and other miscellaneous items held at the Church amounted to £1,454 (£1,172 last year); above the £750 total budget for both items. The concert raised £3,203 (£3,271 last year) from ticket sales and contributions towards refreshments (part of this was shown last year under the miscellaneous income category). Bank interest was £258 (£8 last year). Subscription income was lower than the £8,000 budgeted and amounted to £6,247 (£7,567 last year). We also received £364 (£1,040 last year) from the main Church as Guild contributions from weddings held at the church. Finally, £585 (£1,105 last year) was received from the Easter Service to offset the cost of flowers.

Expenditure for the year was £16,328 (£16,149 last year), against a start of year budget of £15,000. Grants towards Tunicles totalled £1,500 (£5,274 last year) against a budget of £3,000. Payment for the issues of the Oranges & Lemons, including printing costs, postage and editor fees were under the £5,600 budget at £5,485 (£5,080 last year). The Concert and Friends Service exceeded the

budget of £4,000 at £5,042 (£3,058 last year) mainly as a result in the change of charging regime for Music Services by the RAF. This has effectively meant that the Church must now pay for the Band, whose services had previously been provided without charge. Costs for the Easter Service flowers amounted to £514 (£659 last year). The Church has also spent £2,060 on the provision of stocks to sell and £249 towards the purchase of a sideman's morning coat for the Church Guild (no similar expenditure last year). A donation made in 2015 amounting to £1,500 had a specific condition in that it should be spent to increase the music held by the church and is treated as 'Restricted'. The balance of £71 was carried forward into this financial year to enable further purchases (which have been made) and a further £171 has been spent from unrestricted funds to replenish sheet music stocks. Bank charges for the running of the BACS system for membership direct debits were £655 (£776 last year). Expenditure is completed by Trustee expenses of £521 compared to £712 last year.

At the end of the year we had a surplus income amounting to £3,005 and we ended the year with our Bank Accounts holding £69,182 (£66,178 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. However, the Trustees directed that an independent review was carried out this year to provide assurance to the new Treasurer that all procedures and processes were in order. As such the CC16A and associated accounting documents have been scrutinised by the Accounting Officer at Royal Air Force Henlow; the Officer has provided the Trustees with an assurance of the accounts and that she has no areas of concerns with the management of the fund.



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-18	To	Period end date 30-Jun-19
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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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	6,455	-	-	6,455	6,011
Legacy Bequests	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
Christmas Card Sales	-	-	-	-	100
Ties and other Misc Sales	1,454	-	-	1,454	1,072
Concert Ticket Sales	3,203	-	-	3,203	3,032
Easter Service	585	-	-	585	1,105
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-	239
Bank Interest	25	-	-	25	8
Guild Fees	364	-	-	364	1,040
Subscriptions	6,247	-	-	6,247	7,567
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>19,333</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,333</b>	<b>21,174</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>19,333</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,333</b>	<b>21,174</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Grants to Main Church	1,500	-	-	1,500	5,274
Guild Purchases	249	-	-	249	-
Friends Concert Payments	4,967	-	-	4,967	3,058
Easter Service	514	-	-	514	659
Sheet Music Purchases	171	71	-	242	591
Friends Service	75	-	-	75	-
Oranges & Lemons	5,485	-	-	5,485	5,080
General Charitable Expenditure	2,060	-	-	2,060	-
Support Costs - Trustee Expenses	521	-	-	521	712
Support Costs - Printing & Stationery	59	-	-	59	-
Bank Charges	655	-	-	655	776
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16,257</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,328</b>	<b>16,149</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16,257</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,328</b>	<b>16,149</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,076</b>	<b>- 71</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,005</b>	<b>5,025</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>66,106</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,178</b>	<b>61,153</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>69,182</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>69,182</b>	<b>66,178</b>

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	14,033	-	-
	Unity Trust Account	44,904		-
	Current Account	10,245	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	69,182	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

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

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

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

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Original Signed	M D Heffron	28-Nov-19
Original Signed	E Rogers	28-Nov-19



## Membership Report

We started 2019 with 643 members and the current membership stands at 620 active members with one further record which is inactive but still paying their DD; this remains included within the membership numbers for holistic record-keeping.

Membership statistics are 382 Life members, 3 Honorary<sup>1</sup> members, 4 Corporate members and 232 Annual subscribers.

Of the 236 members (including Corporate members) paying annually, 183 pay by direct debit (including the direct debit as noted above), 33 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:

<b>Life Membership:</b>	<b>382</b> (Joint 89, Single 293)
<b>Honorary Membership:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Corporate Membership:</b>	<b>4</b> (Cash/Chq 2, DD 2)
<b>Annual Subscribers:</b>	<b>232</b> (Joint – Cash/Chq 5, DD 59, SO 7, Overseas 1; Single – Cash/Chq 22, DD 121, SO 13, Overseas 3)
<b>Records to be clarified:</b>	<b>1</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Honorary 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 Bouncy Castle

The Reverend David Osborn BD AKC PGCE RAF

St Clement Danes now rivals Norwich Cathedral's helter-skelter with its new bouncy castle ... not really ... it's just the contemporary portable safety system owned by our contractors. They deploy it

when working on the tower to protect people below.

We want all our visitors to be safe when they enter and exit the church!



## 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

Felix Augustine Power Cookson (1 September)

Oriana Rose Red Cartlia (6 October)

Robert Douglas Ellis McCartney (23 October)

Agnes Heather Francis Tress Hunt (3 November)

Hugo Alexander Stirling Morris (8 December)

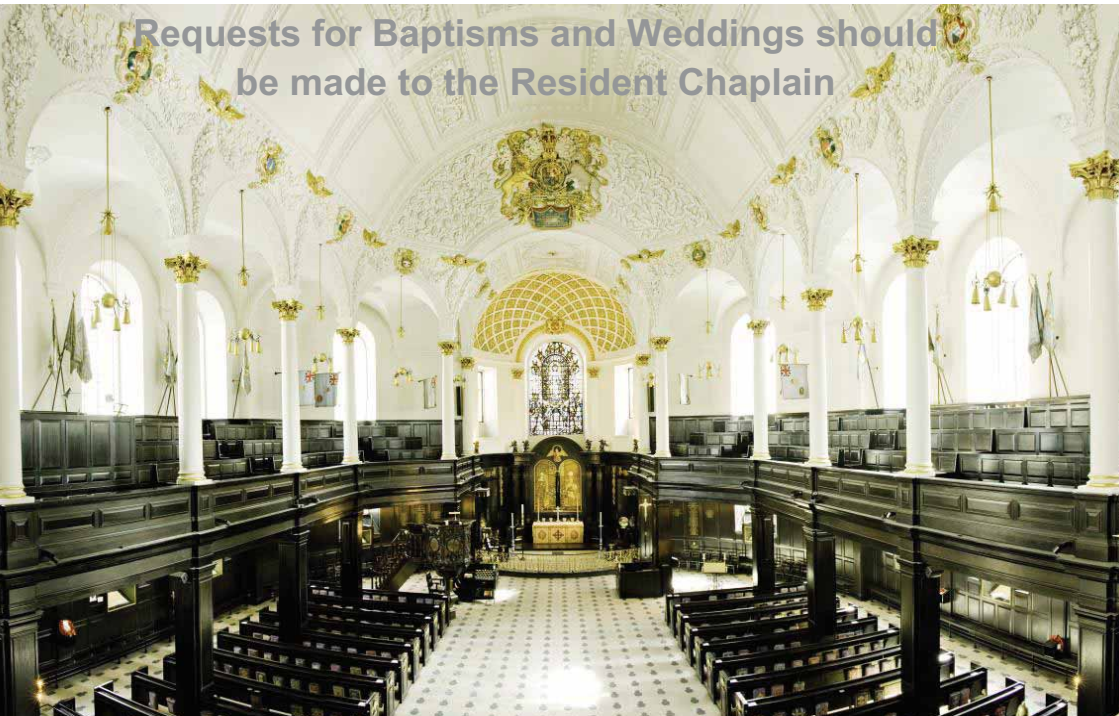
### Weddings

Steven John Murphy & Tammy Ellen Clark (7 September)

Mark J Haywood & Michelle L Kleeman (21 September)

James Alexander Rowland & Zoe Ann McParlin (16 November)

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



# Church Diary

All services start at 11am

08 Mar	Choral Matins
15 Mar	Choral Eucharist
22 Mar	Choral Matins: Mothering Sunday
29 Mar	Choral Eucharist with Baptisms
05 Apr	Palm Sunday Service
10 Apr	Good Friday Liturgy
12 Apr	Choral Eucharist for Easter Day
19 Apr	RAF Sunday
26 Apr	Choral Matins
03 May	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
10 May	VE Sunday Service
17 May	Choral Eucharist: with Baptism (tbc)
24 May	Choral Matins
31 May	Choral Eucharist RAF Club (tbc)
07 Jun	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
14 Jun	Choral Matins: Friends Service
21 Jun	Choral Eucharist
28 Jun	Cross of Nails Community Service
05 Jul	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
12 Jul	Choral Matins
19 Jul	Choral Eucharist
26 Jul	Choral Matins
02 Aug	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
09 Aug	Choral Matins
16 Aug	Morning Prayer and RAF Halton Apprentice Association Flag Lay up
23 Aug	Choral Matins
30 Aug	Choral Eucharist
06 Sep	Choral Eucharist
13 Sep	Choral Matins
20 Sep	Battle of Britain Commemoration Service
27 Sep	Choral Matins: Harvest Thanksgiving

# **News from 296 (Stoke Newington) Squadron**

## **Air Training Corps**

**Warrant Officer Avtar Singh RAFAC**

Since October 2019 we've had an influx of cadets join and they are now coming to the end of the basic 1st class cadet training.

During the summer we visited various RAF stations. One of the highlights was RAF Lakenheath with a tour of the station conducted by USA Air Force personnel. Cadets also visited the Duxford museum and several of the older cadets assisted staff at the Biggin Hill Air Show over the two days. We also visited RAF Brize Norton where the cadets were given a tour of the Airbus Voyager.

Most of our cadets have now started their Duke of Edinburgh Award. A number have been awarded shooting marksmanship badges; a few have achieved basic gliding standard and two of the cadets have been awarded the Jack Petchey Award.

296 cadets and staff were out in force for Wings Appeal Day in Central London and enjoyed a wonderful day meeting and collecting donations from the public. It was a bit wet but great fun! We repeated the experience in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

It was a great honour to be invited to the Battle of Britain Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey, take part in the City of London Lord Mayor's Show and return to St Clement Danes for the Friends' Christmas Concert, where the music was excellent as always.

Staff, cadets as well as many friends and ex-cadets attended three different Remembrance Parades in our local communities. Parents were then invited back to the unit for tea and cake.

The squadron has gone from strength to strength and we are in the process of fundraising for a new minibus. We are on the lookout for new staff and new challenges and adventures for the cadets in 2020.







## **A Gift in Your Will**

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.

For more information please email: [st.clementasst@btconnect.com](mailto:st.clementasst@btconnect.com)



## 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 Direct Debit of £26pa\*\*
- ☐ **We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a Direct Debit of £40pa\*\*

*\*\* 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 2014 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

5. Reference Number  
(Hon Treasurer to complete)

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 type of account.



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/our-organisation/units/st-clement-danes-church/friends-of-st-clement-danes](http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/units/st-clement-danes-church/friends-of-st-clement-danes)**

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