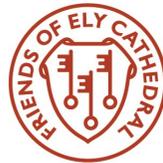


# The Friends of Ely Cathedral

## Newsletter

February 2025



### **URGENT NOTICE for all Friends**

Friends' Subscriptions increased for existing Friends on 1st January BUT about a third of the hundreds of subs received so far in 2025 have not included the increases (notified to Friends in February 2024 with reminders in July and December).

We now ask all Friends to check how much you paid/are paying and send a supplementary payment as soon as possible if it is below £25 single or £40 joint. As you might expect our running costs have increased and we can no longer send Mailings or Emails to Friends who don't pay at least the minimum subscription. We do not like to cancel Memberships but may be forced to do so. Longstanding Life Friends are also asked to consider making an additional payment. Please tell us if you are not renewing or wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Thank you for increasing your support. If you need to check your payment or Friends' Membership Number please email the office. If you did not receive a reminder email from us in December please make sure that we have your correct email.

**The Friends' bank details are on the next page!**

***Many thanks to those who have already increased their subs.***

The Friends of Ely Cathedral

The Chapter House, The College, ELY, Cambs CB7 4DL

e-mail: [sue.hunting@elycathedral.org](mailto:sue.hunting@elycathedral.org) ☎ 01353 660348

[www.elycathedral.org/friends](http://www.elycathedral.org/friends)

## **BACS payment for Friends' Events/Subs/Donations**

Here is the procedure for paying for Friends' Events , Subs etc by BACS:

### **The Friends of Ely Cathedral**

**Sort Code:** 30-93-05                      **Account Number:** 00080253

**Reference:** Your Name & Friends' No eg F4142 (usually on Friends' Pass) **and** Subs or Donation or Event (eg ECOS, Green & Gold etc.)

- 1) Please transfer the appropriate amount to the Friends' account, adding £1 if you wish to receive tickets by post.
- 2) Then send a confirmation email saying what the payment is for ie subs or event. If it is an event please tell us who is coming and how much you have paid, with your address if you have added £1 for tickets to be posted to you.

**NB Without a confirmation email we may not be able to identify the payment in time to reserve places or issue tickets.**

## **SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE** (from Feb 2024 Newsletter)

In October 2023 The Friends' Council agreed to raise minimum subscriptions from November 2023 for New Friends and from January 2025 for existing Friends. This is the first increase since 2012 and Covid and the cost of living crisis meant that it was long overdue. We are now asking all Friends to change their Standing Orders for 2025 and are hugely grateful to those who have already done this and/or have already made an extra payment for this year. Thank you for your support.

### **NEW Annual Friend minimum subscriptions**

£25 single, £40 joint, £30 corporate, all due on 1st January

**NEW Life Friend minimum subscriptions:** £300 single, £500 joint

***NB If you are a Life Friend who joined a while ago please consider sending an extra donation.***

Friends' Membership (Annual or Life) makes an unusual present. Friends are also welcome to change from Annual to Life Membership. There is a £5 fee for replacement Passes.

For more information, or to check whether you have paid this year's subs, please email Sue Hunting [sue.hunting@elycathedral.org](mailto:sue.hunting@elycathedral.org)

## **Forthcoming Friends' Events**

**P4 Thurs 20 March: ECOS Concert**

**P6 Thurs 1 May: Green & Gold Tour**

**P8 Thurs 8 May: Threads through the Bible Walk & Talk**

**Tues 20 May: New Friends' Evening** invitations to follow

**P10 Fri 6 June: Summer Social - Food, Fizz & Famous Songs**

**10 - 12 July: Friends' Stall, Home & Garden Event**

(see below)

*Advance Notice:*

**Sat 20 Sept: Friends' Day & AGM** details in July Newsletter

**Weds 19 - Sat 22 Nov: Friends' Stall at Christmas Fair**

**NEW EVENT:** The Cathedral is holding a **Home & Garden Event from 10-12 July** and The Friends are delighted to be having a Stall. Our aim is to sell our merchandise, raise the profile of The Friends and recruit new members.

**However we need volunteers to help!** If you are willing to take a turn on the Stall please contact Sue in the office and she will be pleased to add you to the Rota. Slots are available for Thursday & Friday morning, afternoon and evening and Saturday morning & afternoon.

### ***LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD: 1936 — 2026***

In 2026 The Friends will celebrate our 90th Anniversary.

It is hoped to have a variety of activities but a date for your diaries is Friday 22 May 2026 for an Anniversary Dinner in the Monastic Barn.

Tickets will be £60 (£50 + VAT) so we hope that advance notice allows you to save up for this special event.

Please let us know asap if this is likely to be of interest.

## **FRIENDS' EVENT**

# **Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (ECOS)**

**Thursday, 20 March 7.30pm** in the Lady Chapel

We are delighted that Ely Cathedral Octagon Singers (ECOS) have kindly agreed to give a concert for The Friends.

Their Director is Jeremy Lloyd, (who is also Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral) and he writes that they will be singing a mixture of sacred and secular music, including some arrangements of well-known folksongs and a selection of sacred works with a Marian theme.

They will also sing some well-established works of choral repertoire, with pieces by Handel, Brahms and Eleanor Daley. The choir will be expertly accompanied by their Assistant Director of Music, Andrew Parnell.

Friends' Bookings are available from the Friends' Office and from the Cathedral Box Office from 17 February (see opposite). Prices (£12 Friends, £15 Guests) include a glass of wine or soft drink in the interval.

## **NEW BLANK FRIENDS' CARDS**

Following the amazing success of Friends' Christmas Cards we have been considering an Easter Card but instead have decided on a blank, all purpose card featuring 'Christ in glory' a photograph showing the stained glass detail from the East Window of the Cathedral.

Cards (125mms square) will be £4 for a pack of 5 and will be available from the Friends' Office, at Friends' Events and from the Cathedral Shop from late February. The image can be seen on our webpage (with many thanks to John Hunting).

**FRIENDS' EVENT**

**Ely Cathedral Octagon  
Singers (ECOS)**

**Thursday, 20 March 7.30pm**  
in the Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Friend tickets at **£12** each  
and \_\_\_\_\_ Guest tickets at **£15** each

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ payable to 'The Friends  
of Ely Cathedral' **and an SAE**

Names of attendees:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  Tel no: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form **& SAE** to: Mrs S. M. Hunting, Friends' Officer,  
The Chapter House, The College,  
ELY, Cambs CB7 4DL

***Payment can also be made by BACS see Page 2 for details.***

*NB Friend & Guest Tickets will also be available from the  
Cathedral Box Office (online, 01353 660349 and in person)  
from 17 February. For Friend Tickets please use Promo Code*

**ELYFRIENDS25**

## FRIENDS' EVENT

# Ely Cathedral: Green & Gold Tour An Eco Church in action

**Thursday, 1 May 3.00pm**

**Meet inside the Cathedral West Door,  
end with Tea in Powcher's Hall**

A unique opportunity to explore the Cathedral environs and see the Cathedral's 'green' projects in action as well as learn how we achieved the prestigious A Rocha Eco Church Gold Award.

Rebecca Mundy & Bob Skelton will lead a Tour to include the Cathedral, the East Lawn Gardens, the Almonry Garden, the Dean's Garden and Dean's Paddock (with beehives and new fruit trees) before returning to Powcher's Hall for Tea and Cake.

**Places (limited) must be reserved in advance.**

**Tickets: £10 Friends, £12 Guests** to include tea and cake. They are available from the Friends' Office via the form on the facing page or via BACS (see Page 2).

*Please wear suitable footwear for walking in the uneven rough grass of the Paddock. If the weather is terrible then we shall have a presentation/discussion in Powcher's Hall.*

## NEWS OF FRIENDS    EXCITING NEWS

'The Hospital Broadcasting Association (HBA) is delighted to share the news that its President, **June Snowden**, has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to Hospital, Health and Wellbeing Broadcasting in HM The King's New Year Honours List 2025. June has been a loyal volunteer, supporter and advocate for hospital, health and wellbeing broadcasting for over 50 years, devoting much of her life to the national cause.'

Wow well done June - a longstanding Friend, recently moved to York.

**FRIENDS' EVENT**

**Ely Cathedral: Green & Gold Tour  
An Eco Church in action**

**Thursday, 1 May 3.00pm**

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## FRIENDS' EVENT

# Threads through the Bible

## WALK, TALK & TEA

Thursday, 8 May 3.30pm

Meet by The Friends' Noticeboard in the nave  
of the Cathedral

This should be a real treat for Friends– a chance to hear from the artist Jacqui Parkinson, about her amazing textile art and how she created it.

The exhibition will open to the public on 9th May so this is a special preview for The Friends. Jacqui's art is most impressive and so are the stories behind it. There are 44 huge panels to wonder at - some were exhibited at Ely in 2023 but this is a chance to see the whole project and a rare opportunity to meet the artist. **NOT TO BE MISSED.**

*Further details of the Exhibition are on the EC website.*

**Places (limited) must be reserved in advance.**

**Tickets: £10 Friends, £12 Guests** to include tea and cake

They are available from the Friends' Office via the priority form on the facing page or via BACS (see below).

## NEWS OF FRIENDS MANY CONGRATULATIONS!

**Mrs Phyl Pirie:** We are delighted that Phyl celebrated her 100th birthday last October. Many people will remember Phyl's cheery face when she was part of the Ministry of Welcome at the Cathedral.

**Harold Killingback:** I chanced upon a newspaper article which said that Church Bells were rung in Brooke, Lincs in honour of Harold's 100th Birthday on 22 November 2024. Amazingly he shared his celebrations with his identical twin brother!

Both Phyl and Harold have been Friends since before 1995 (when our computer records started). We are proud of them & their support.

**FRIENDS' EVENT**

**Threads through the Bible**

**WALK, TALK & TEA**

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ELY, Cambs CB7 4DL

***Payment can also be made by BACS see Page 2 for details.***

## FRIENDS' EVENT

# 'Food, Fizz & Famous Songs'

in the Bishop's Marquee

**Friday, 6 June, 7.00 - 9.30pm**

We are delighted to have the use of the Bishop's Marquee on Friday, 6 June for another Friends' Summer Social.

The weather last year was awful and we had to decamp to the Lady Chapel - here's hoping for our usual sunshine!

There will be 'Food & Fizz' with 'a grazing table of both savoury and sweet treats', and the chance to enjoy the Bishop's Garden and Rose Garden. **Live music will be from 'Not the Dankworths'** a fantastic duo comprising Glynis and Richard — two Friends who are professional musicians and who will be performing 'Songs from Stage and Screen'.

There will be a 'summer hamper' raffle – with the theme of F (for Friends!). Donations of prizes beginning with F will be very welcome – to the Friends' Office in advance if possible please.

This event is usually very popular so we suggest you buy your tickets early.

Tickets: £25 Friends, £30 Guests



*Tickets only available from the Friends' Office (see facing Page).*

## BISHOP'S HOUSE TOURS - postponed again

Sadly the work on the Bishop's House is proceeding slowly (since there is no Bishop on the horizon) and so our planned Friends' Tours are still on hold. We hope that there may be more positive news in our July Newsletter. Thank you for your patience.

**FRIENDS' EVENT**

**'Food, Fizz & Famous Songs'**

in the Bishop's Marquee  
**Friday, 6 June, 7.00 - 9.30pm**

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*Please copy or download forms [www.elycathedral.org/friends](http://www.elycathedral.org/friends)  
if you don't want to cut the pages.*

