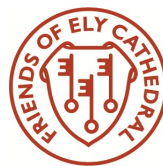


The Friends of Ely Cathedral

Newsletter

September 2020



This Newsletter replaces the usual Summer Newsletter

Please see inside for details of:

2020 Friends' AGM

to be via Zoom on 26 November

Friends' 2020 Christmas Card

please support us by buying our cards this year

PLUS:

A message from the Dean

FoEC 2019 Financial Report

Cathedral Update

Music Department Update

The Friends of Ely Cathedral

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

e-mail: friends@elycathedral.org ☎ 01353 660348

www.elycathedral.org/friends

THE FRIENDS OF ELY CATHEDRAL

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Council had planned to increase Friends' subs for 2021 but coronavirus has made this inappropriate. Consequently minimum subscriptions stay unchanged for 2021.

Annual minimum subscriptions for 2021:

£15 single, £25 joint, £20 corporate, all due on 1st January.

There is also a £5 fee for replacement Passes.

However subs have not increased since 2011 and payments above the minimum are welcome.

Please consider increasing your contribution and/or making a special donation to The Friends. As you will see elsewhere The Friends' Council has responded to the pandemic with recently agreed gifts of £5,000 to the Cathedral for PPE materials and £17,000 to purchase the equipment needed for the live streaming of services and events. These gifts are in addition to funding the project of a new sound system for the Lady Chapel (£40,000) which was being processed before lockdown.

Friends' Membership (Annual or Life) makes an unusual present. Friends are also welcome to change membership categories.

For more information please contact Sue Hunting, Friends' Officer:

e-mail: friends@elycathedral.org ☎ 01353 660348

Dean Hankey Prize and Friends' Medallion

Regretfully we shall not be able to present these prizes at Friends' Day this year (see Page 3) but are pleased to announce that for 2020 the Friends' Medallion will be awarded to

Tomas Dickinson

and the Dean Hankey Prize will be awarded to

Arnold Greenfields

We send our warmest congratulations to them both.

From the Friends' Officer - - - -

Dear Friends,

Hello and how are you? We do hope that you are coping OK in these very strange times — and it is good to be in touch. As you will realise the pandemic has had/is having a marked effect on both the Cathedral and the Friends but everyone is doing their best 'to keep the show on the road' and there have recently been some amazingly innovative ideas.

Spring and summer this year should have been our busiest ever with events but of course only the inspiring talk on The Broderers' was able to go ahead before lockdown. I must now confirm that our annual Quiz, scheduled for 25 November, has also been postponed. On the plus side it is wonderful that the Cathedral is now open again for both visitors and services (see Page 10).

More good news is that the Friends' Christmas Card this year is a splendidly cheerful design by Debbie Bellaby (see Page 8). We really hope that you will buy our Cards this year as we have been unable to raise funds by social events. Your purchase is now even more important because (as I write) it seems likely that the planned, and hoped for, Cathedral Christmas Market will not be able to go ahead.

We are, however, going ahead with our AGM although it has been delayed and will be on its own rather than as part of a Friends' Day. After much discussion we will hold a shortened AGM by Zoom since a physical meeting in the Cathedral is impractical. We hope that Friends who wish to attend have access to a computer. Business will be restricted to the minimum required by our Constitution. Please see Page 6 for full details.

Looking further ahead we hope to produce the usual Yearbook in January/February — and will welcome contributions. Please send articles etc to the office by 1st December.

I'm sure we all hope that The Friends can meet again in person before too long — meanwhile this comes with all best wishes and thanks for your support.

Take care and keep safe,

Sue Hunting

NB Please keep an eye on our webpage — all our cards, documents and latest developments can be seen at www.elycathedral.org/friends

A message from the Dean - - - - -

You will not be surprised to know that as for so many these have been and continue to be challenging times for the Cathedral. We're so pleased that since the middle of July we have been able to be open again for worship – which is what the Cathedral exists for in the first place, but also to have visitors through the week again, and see the Almonry Restaurant open. It has also been wonderful that since the beginning of the school term the choirs have returned and our services are choral again. Unfortunately congregations are not able to sing – but we can hum behind our masks!

Financially this is a hard time for the Cathedral and we are grateful that The Friends have been able to support in a number of areas, particularly helping with providing PPE, sanitisers and screens to enable safe working for our staff and for visitors. Chapter have taken full advantage of the government's furlough scheme, and where it has been necessary there has been a rationalisation of resources. You don't need to be a mathematical expert to realise that with absolutely no visitors, events or refectory income for nearly four months, and with there still to be no events, and about 40-50% at the most of the previous number of visitors the finances are challenging. Chapter are facing a significant deficit this year of more than half a million pounds, and are looking at something in the region of a £200k deficit next year.

So we are very grateful for all the support you feel able to give. You may wish to support the Cathedral directly through the giving page on the website, or make an extra donation to the Friends and so support the Cathedral through the special projects for which we will continue to request monies.

Please consider whether you might give a little extra – at the moment £15 or 25/year as a Friend is a pretty good deal!! Thank you.

With my best wishes,

Mark Bonney

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

The Friends had another satisfactory and relatively uneventful year from a financial point of view. The accounts have been uploaded on to the Friends' page of the Ely Cathedral website (www.elycathedral.org/friends)

Total income was £80,364 (2018 - £186,593). This comprises subscriptions, donations, legacies and gift aid claims on subscriptions of £32,701 (2018 - £137,826), investment income and interest of £35,852 (2018 - £35,096). The balance of the income, £11,811 (2018 - £13,671) is gross income, before expenses, of fund raising activities (see also below). The sharp drop in total income is attributable to legacy income of which there was none in 2019 compared to £103,048 in 2018.

The income after expenses from fund raising activities, outings, social events, Christmas cards etc was £6,424 (2018 - £7,398).

Total expenditure, excluding gifts to Ely Cathedral and costs associated with fund raising activities, increased by £155 to £21,739.

Gifts to Ely Cathedral were £121,681 compared to £38,690 in 2018. The principal gifts were lantern repairs £25,000, resurfacing of pathway at the east end £18,200 and Lady Chapel sound system £40,000. The last of these was committed to in 2019 but not expended until 2020.

The value of the charity's investments increased in the year by £174,375.

The net assets of the charity at 31 December 2019 were £1,223,255 - an increase in the year from £1,117,323. Of this £1,095,338 was the ring fenced designated fund, leaving £127,917 general funds. The accounts were approved by council on 29 April 2020 and it will be proposed at the AGM that they be adopted.

Turning to the current year, social activities have been severely curtailed and the only expected fund raising income for the year will be from Christmas cards.

Subscriptions have continued to be received and total income from annual subscription to the end of August shows a very small increase compared to the same period in 2019 although life subscription receipts have fallen by £1,000. Two legacies have been received totalling £73,976.

A gift to Ely Cathedral agreed and paid in 2020 was £5,000 for personal protection equipment. Council also recently agreed a gift to the Cathedral of £17,000 to purchase the equipment needed to live-stream services and events. In addition earlier in the year a gift of £22,000 to the music department was agreed for a keyboard and small grand piano, however the purchase of these has been delayed by the pandemic.

Richard O Setchell, Honorary Treasurer, 15 September 2020

THE FRIENDS OF ELY CATHEDRAL
77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 2.00pm via Zoom

AGENDA

1. **a) Prayers**
 b) Welcome and Apologies
2. **To confirm the Minutes** of the Seventy-Sixth Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 28 September 2019 (circulated to all Friends in the 2019 Yearbook)
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes**
4. **Chairman's Report*: The Dean** (to be published in the 2020 Yearbook)
5. **Hon. Treasurer's Report*: Mr Richard Setchell** (see Page 5)
 & Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 Dec 2019
6. **Report from Chair of Council*: Mr Edward Gifford**
7. **Friends' Officer's Report*: Mrs Sue Hunting**
8. **Election of Council Members**
 Thanks are due to those Council members who are retiring this year.
 Nominations for Council (proposed and seconded by Friends) should be given to the Friends' Officer in writing by no later than Wednesday, 11 November 2020. If necessary there will be an election.
 Nomination Forms are on Page 7.
9. **Requests for Grants**
10. **Any Other Business**
 Any motion to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting must be given to the Friends' Officer in writing by Wednesday, 11 November 2020.

Zoom AGM — details

It is anticipated that this year's AGM will be a short business meeting. The Charity Commission rules require us to accept the 2019 Accounts and to elect or re-elect two Council members.

The usual reports* will be published as usual in the 2020 Yearbook but may not be read at the Zoom meeting.

To be quorate the AGM needs the attendance of 20 Friends.

If you wish to attend please email Sue Hunting in advance (preferably by 19 November). You will then be emailed the Meeting ID for the Zoom meeting together with any additional papers.

If you are interested in standing for election to the Friends' Council please contact Sue Hunting, Ed Gifford (Chair of Council) or any Council member for a chat about what is involved.

Sue Hunting & Ed Gifford

sue.hunting@elycathedral.org edwardgifford02@gmail.com

Friends' Council Nomination Form

I, _____ (please print)

wish to stand for election as a member of The Council of
The Friends of Ely Cathedral and am duly proposed
and seconded by the following Friends:

Proposer _____ Signed _____

Seconder _____ Signed _____

Signed (nominee) _____ Date _____

Please return this form to the Friends' Office
by Wednesday, 11 November 2020

PLEASE SUPPORT THE FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CARDS

As you know most of our Programme of Events for 2020 has had to be postponed (and it should have been our busiest Spring/Summer ever!)

You will also know that the effects of lockdown have badly affected the Cathedral's finances — so with that in mind we are asking you to consider supporting us by buying Friends' Christmas Cards this year.

We have a lovely 2020 design by local artist Debbie Bellaby. We commissioned an illustration based on the view from the new Ely southern by-pass — and it features the Cathedral as well as the railway with a steam train and the river with festive barges. For steam aficionados the train is The Duchess of Sutherland in her carmine livery! The design can be seen at **www.elycathedral.org/friends**

After a miserable year this is a splendidly cheerful card — and we hope that by sending it you will spread the word about Ely Cathedral and The Friends. Once again the card has been printed by Print-Out of Histon — and packed by volunteers (working at home rather than in the Chapter House). Counting up to 10 through the TV News somehow made it more bearable!

Other designs are also available and they can all be viewed on our webpage. There are also blank Notecards and the famous Friends' Bag which is only available from us!

The Friends' Order Form is on the next page — and similar can be downloaded from the webpage. This is the first time that we have promoted Mail Order and hope you agree that it is a sensible thing to do this year.

We look forward to hearing from you — all profits from the sale of our merchandise go to the Cathedral either via The Friends or, if items are bought from the Cathedral Shop, the profit is split between the Shop and the Friends.

FRIENDS' ORDER FORM

Please note: All Christmas Cards are in Packs of 10 with the greeting
'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year'

	Price	Quantity	Total £
NEW Christmas Card 'Next stop Ely Cathedral' by Debbie Bellaby	£6/pack	_____	_____
Christmas Card (photo) 'Ely Cathedral in the snow' by Simon Stirrup	£6/pack	_____	_____
Christmas Card (painting) 'Ely Cathedral' by John Sansom	£6/pack	_____	_____
Christmas Card 'The East Lawn of Ely Cathedral' by Debbie Bellaby	£5/pack	_____	_____
Blank Notecards (pack of 6) Two designs, photos by Andrew Sharpe	£4/pack	_____	_____
Friends' Bags, heavy duty canvas Octagon Design (cream & navy) by Lisa Gifford	£6 each	_____	_____
TOTAL			_____
Post & Packing (special offer)			£2.00
Donation to 'The Friends' (appreciated)			_____
TOTAL AMOUNT			_____

I enclose a cheque for the Total Amount (payable to The Friends of Ely Cathedral)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

NAME (please print): _____

Full Address _____

E-mail: _____ ☎ Tel no: _____

:
Please return this form with your cheque to:

Mrs S. M. Hunting, Friends' Officer,
The Chapter House, The College, ELY, Cambs CB7 4DL

CATHEDRAL UPDATE

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Ely Cathedral has resumed public worship on Sundays for the 10.30am Eucharist and 4.00pm Evensong.

Advanced booking for the Sunday Eucharist and Sunday Evensong has been introduced to keep everyone safe and to manage numbers. The easiest way to reserve a place at a service is to book online via the Cathedral website. For enquiries by phone, please call 01353 667735, Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm.

You can now also attend Weekday Morning Prayer followed by a Eucharist at 7.30am and 8am. No advance booking is required for these services but we ask everyone to respect the current regulations. Access for Morning Prayer and the Eucharist is through the South Door of the Cathedral. There is no access via the West Door. Weekday Evensong resumed at 5.30pm on 7th September. (No booking is currently required for these services as we anticipate numbers will be manageable).

Digital worship and other online services will continue to be streamed via YouTube. (see Cathedral website)

OPENING TO GENERAL VISITORS

The Cathedral re-opened its doors to visitors on 29 July and is currently open from Monday to Saturday between 10am and 4pm. There are two bookable entry slots, 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm. The latest you are able to enter the Cathedral is 3.30pm and all visitors are asked to leave by 4pm. Limited visitor tickets are available for each slot so pre-booking is essential. We regret that we cannot offer West or Octagon Tower Tours.

The Cathedral is also open to visitors free of charge on Sunday afternoons between 1pm and 3.30pm, with last entry at 3.00pm.

Advanced booking is essential to help manage numbers and maintain social distancing. Extensive cleaning and Covid-19 Safety measures are also in place. We are delighted that Ely Cathedral has achieved Visit Britain's 'Good to Go' COVID-19 industry standard for attractions, confirming that clear processes are in place to protect the safety of all.

Please note that it is now a legal requirement for face coverings to be worn and for contact details to be supplied by anyone entering the Cathedral.

We appreciate everyone's co-operation.

Chris Flatman, Director of Operations

MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Until March of this year, the idea that the Cathedral Choir might be silenced for six months belonged to the annals of history: not since the English Civil War have the stones of the Cathedral failed to resound to the daily sounds of choral worship. But the sudden lockdown meant that we had to suspend our normal operations overnight, with no idea when we might return.

Throughout the enforced stoppage, the choristers kept in touch with each other, and the music staff, via Zoom lessons. The clouds eventually began to part when the go-ahead was given in the middle of August for choral music in services to resume. The Lay Clerks returned first, as they are the ideal formation for COVID times: six people who can all remain distant from one another!

We devised a phased return for the choristers, for we could have no idea as we planned for the new term how well their voices were working, and what they might remember of the chorister task. We needn't have worried: both Sarah MacDonald and I found minutes into our first rehearsals with the respective groups of trebles that it was almost as though they'd never been away. All of them seem glad to be back, and the dedication and team spirit which lockdown might so easily have undone are, if anything, strengthened by the current circumstances. Ely is luckier than many Cathedrals: a combination of the vast size of the space, easily allowing the requisite distancing from adults, and the fact that all the choristers are boarders, meaning that they count as single households which do not need to distance, has meant that rehearsals and services could resume straight away.

We are therefore offering daily worship once more, with slight variations to the regular pattern only where services such as Ordinations have had to be rescheduled during the pandemic. We know that there will be bumps in the road before COVID is behind us, but Friends of the Cathedral will be glad to know that its musicians are in good heart – and impossible to silence!

Edmund Aldhouse, Director of Music

(NB Cathedral and Music information correct as at 21 September 2020)

ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF ELY CATHEDRAL

The Friends of Ely Cathedral CIO is a Society whose members, through the payment of an annual subscription, wish to assist the Chapter in caring for the Cathedral. The object of the Society is the preservation of the fabric of Ely Cathedral and general maintenance of the Cathedral and its activities and services, its ornaments and furnishings.

The Friends of Ely Cathedral also keeps members in touch with what happens at the Cathedral.

The generosity of individual Friends by subscription, donation and legacy enables us to give many gifts to the Cathedral. Notable major projects include 'The Way of Life' sculpture (for the Millennium), the specially commissioned Lady Chapel reredos and altar (2011) and the new choirstalls (2018). There have also been many smaller gifts.

BEING A FRIEND: All Members receive

- Friends' pass giving free access to the Cathedral & Stained Glass Museum
- An invitation to the Friends' Festival Day & Annual General Meeting
- Regular Newsletters and invitations to social events, talks & outings
- A copy of the Annual Yearbook

Membership Fees

Annual fees are due on 1 January each year. Friends are encouraged to pay by Standing Order and Gift Aid their subscriptions if possible.

Gift Aid is important in boosting our Funds since, as a charity, we can claim tax back from donations & subscriptions. If you are a taxpayer please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Annual passes are valid for as long as the correct subscription is paid.
Replacement Passes are available at £5 each.

The following are the minimum subscriptions for 2021. Payments above the minimum are encouraged! Thank you!

Annual Membership (Single / Joint)	£15 / £25
Life Membership (Single / Joint)	£200 / £350
Corporate Membership (eg PCC)	£20

New members are always welcome and gift membership can be arranged.

Legacies (to The Friends and/or the Cathedral) are very much appreciated and are also tax efficient. We have leaflets that explain this and suggest suitable wording. Please ask for a copy if you are interested.