

# Columns

NUMBER 17 • WINTER 2001

THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH SPITALFIELDS  
REGISTERED CHARITY 276056

*Columns is the newsletter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields who are leading the restoration of Nicholas Hawksmoor's church, one of the most important Baroque churches in Europe.*

*Please support us by subscribing or making a donation. Use the form on the back of this issue to make a donation, or telephone the Friends' office on 020 7247 0165.*

## Title

*Eric Elstob, Chairman of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields, writes:* For several months now, Christ Church has been a still pool, without a ripple of building work; but beneath the surface much has been happening.

In front of me as I write, I have a one inch thick A3 book, weighing five pounds, the scheme design report from Whitfield Partners our architects. In it are scale drawings for all the work outstanding to complete the restoration of Christ Church, from the engineering of the heating system to the carving of the brackets under the galleries. The fruit of twenty-five years painstaking research and inspired judgement by Red Mason and his colleagues, it is an achievement for Whitfields to be proud of. We now know exactly what needs to be done at Christ Church and now our architects are working on the specification for the actual tenders.

Next year should see the resumption of work, this time inside the building, as we launch into the second half of the programme to make the interior match the exterior.

I've been told by one of the Lottery Fund trustees how impressed he was by the large number of individual supporters who are prepared to put their hands in their pockets to restore this great church.

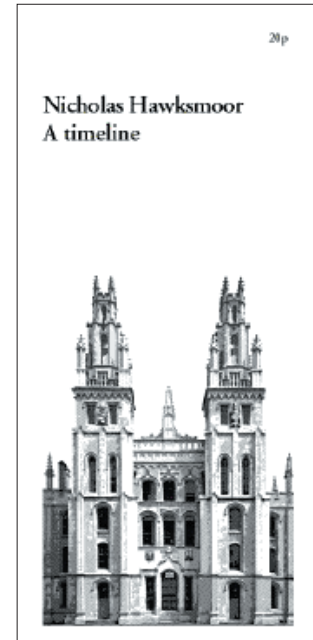
Individual contributions are more important than ever to enable this final stage to proceed and the more of you there are the more influence you will have. Please continue to help us and get your friends to help too.

Thank you for your continuing support.

## Open House weekend 2001

The annual London Open House Weekend in September has become an event to look forward to in the Friends' calendar. The event always attracts many people and this year was no exception with 1400 visitors over the weekend.

We have found that it is a good opportunity to interest and inform new visitors with the building and its restoration and to build on our



*Supporters may be interested to know of the new leaflet which the Friends have just published. It includes a short biography of Hawksmoor and a 'time-line' of all his works. It is available from the church, price 20p. Supporters who would like a free copy should send a stamped addressed (DL business) envelope marked 'Timeline' to the Friends' office.*

growing list of supporters. It is also a chance for us to meet personally some of you who have been so loyal in your support over the years and that is a genuine pleasure.

Throughout the weekend there were hourly talks given, as in previous years, by Trustees of the Friends. This year we also had visiting guest speakers: past Campaign Director, Roland Jeffery, now Director of the Shoreditch Town Hall Trust and Steven Parissien (Director of the Sotheby's Institute of Art). This was a big success and the Friends were most grateful to all of them for their time and expertise. The interest and variety of talks means that they are in themselves beginning to attract people to hear them thus widening the scope of the Open House weekend for us.

To have the church open to such large numbers we need lots of practical help. Some twenty-five volunteers gave up part or all of their weekend to help to which we say a very big thank you.

## Christmas Cards

The Friends' Christmas Cards can be bought through the Friends' office. They are high quality cards in full colour reproduction. This year's is *Christ Church Spitalfields at Night* from the oil painting by Hugh de Wet.

£6.00 per pack post free (ten cards with envelopes).

The greeting inside reads: *With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.*

Please send a cheque made payable to 'The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields'.

Please note that cards will also be on sale at the Festival concerts.

## Christmas Services at Christ Church Spitalfields

*Sunday 16 December: Third Sunday in Advent*

10.30 am Holy Communion  
1.00–5.00 pm Christmas at Christ Church  
6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

*Monday 17 December*

5.30 pm Community Carol Service  
*Sunday 23 December: Fourth Sunday in Advent*

10.30 am Morning Worship  
1.00–5.00 pm Christmas at Christ Church

*Monday 24 December: Christmas Eve*

11.30pm Midnight Communion

*Tuesday 25 December: Christmas Day*

9.30 am Christmas Communion  
(Traditional)

10.30 am Family Christmas  
Celebration (45 minutes)

Sunday 30 December and every Sunday through 2002: join us for worship at 10.30 am.

Please note that in addition, every fourth Sunday in the month there will be Holy Communion (1662 Book of Common Prayer) at 8.30 am.

## Thank you

The campaign to restore Christ Church relies on the support of many people. We would like to thank the following people who have recently given us support in kind:

Ashurst Morris Crisp for printing this issue of Columns and for other printed material

We are also grateful for the help with printing from Herbert Smith and Linklaters & Alliance.

We would like to thank those who come and help both in the office and at special events. We are particularly grateful to Fiona Ligonnet and Christopher Woodward who provide reliable and regular back up in the office throughout the year.

## Personal Column

*Mark Hutton*

I spent the first ten years of my life, in the 1960s, in the country, in a house on the edge of the scarp of the Chiltern Hills. Beneath the field of cow parsley and buttercups outside the windows, the panorama of the Vale of Aylesbury stretched, as it seemed in those days, almost to the very edge of my world. At a distance, on a clear day, rising up behind the plumes of smoke from the cement works at Pitstone, the dark towers of a large country house could be seen floating in this vast studded panorama. My father was wont to occasionally inform me that it was Mentmore Towers, the seat of Lord Rosebury, and Paxton's brooding mass remains one of my first memories.

We lived in Rothschild country, that corner of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire colonised by the great family of financiers. Apart from Mentmore there was Ascott, Pendley, Halton, Champneys and nearest Tring Park, all great houses built for various branches of the family. We lived right on the edge of one of the entrances to the Park, next to some grand Edwardian estate cottages, about a mile from the mansion itself.

The Park next to our house contained, from a time before the Rothschilds, a Georgian summerhouse and a tall stone obelisk which now stood in the darkest green Victorian landscape of straight intersecting lanes with sharp flinty surfaces, bounded by iron estate railings giving onto the hard-pressing deep woods of Yew and Beech wrapped round at intervals with Old Man's Beard. In one direction the lanes ran along the scarp and in another they dipped steeply down into the unseen sunlit parkland below.

And that was where I spent my summers, walking the lanes, and taking in all this magic landscape. It was easy to imagine the glossy horses and even glossier carriages gently plying these lanes of some long forgotten Victorian summer bringing the family for a ride round the park, or a picnic under the portico of the summerhouse. Or the shooting party coming back through the fog of an October afternoon in bowler hats and checked overcoats, the air full of cigar smoke and politics.

And what of it now? Well, the summerhouse was partly destroyed in a landslide and by vandals in the late sixties, a rushing motorway cut through the park in 1975, and the woods were robbed of their best timber by speculators. But it still is there. The deep woods survive, a little scrubbier perhaps than before. The portico of the summerhouse and the obelisk remain, and the

flinty lanes too, a little more mossy now. The iron railings have gone and the woods are busier with walkers than before, it is run by a trust now.

But beautiful places somehow always remain, and notwithstanding the depredations of time will always affect those who will nurture them. Christ Church is like my dark woods. Magic remains magic and time is stilled. For those dark woods set me on the road that led to the dark interior of your Christ Church, and onwards.

*Mark Hutton is Team Leader for Conservation and Urban Design, London Borough of Tower Hamlets*

## Date for your diary

The Friends are planning another Hawksmoor London Churches bus tour for 21 September 2002. Further details will be available in the New Year.

## Back up support

The Friends office is run with a small number of staff so as to keep our overhead costs to a minimum.

Volunteers: we need volunteers for work in the office, which might include help with the mailings, and also at our special events. Please contact us if you would like to become involved.

Please contact the Friends office: 020 7247 0165.

## Recent gifts

The Friends are grateful to the many individuals and organisations who are giving with such generosity to the Restoration Appeal. We value donations large and small. We would like to thank the following for their recent donations, and those who prefer to remain anonymous.

### Gifts of between £50 and £100

anon  
Mr & Mrs AJL Day  
Georgina Dobree  
M A Evans  
R A Furniss  
S J Hollas  
Philip G Hooker  
Dr D P Howlett  
Inscape Fine Art Tours  
Eleanor Jones  
S Le Marechal  
Michael Manser\*  
H Mathews\*  
Mrs H C McWilliam  
Nicholas Monck  
Dr C W A Murray  
William Palin  
M J F Pearce\*  
Mrs J Rattenbury  
Michael Remington  
John S Ricketts  
E A Robbins  
Mrs J M Roberts  
Mr & Mrs Bob Schwartz

Celia Maxwell Scott  
Brian D Smith  
Richard Smith  
Kim Steele  
R Thomson  
G H B Tregear  
Robin Vousden  
Mr & Mrs M E Vulliez  
Sir Martin Wedgwood  
Prof P C Wilkinson  
Mr & Mrs A P Williams  
Rev Anthony C Winter

### Gifts of between £100 and £200

anon  
Mr & Mrs Nicholas Aebi  
Artemis Trust  
Mr & Mrs L Barbour  
The Byrne Charitable Trust\*  
Crossley, R T, Mr  
DIBS Charitable Trust  
Dr Sylvia Fenton  
Martin L Gordon  
Peter T Higgins II  
McCorquodale Charitable Trust

Mrs Pauline Pinder  
Alicia Stewart

### Gifts of £250

Sir Peter Cazalet  
G A Collens  
Polhill Communications

### Gifts of £500

Eleanor Murray  
Allan Murray-Jones

### Gifts of between £1000 and £2,500

Cazenove & Co  
Peter Lerwill  
Henderson Smaller Companies Investment Trust plc\*  
Norton Rose  
Slaughter & May  
Peter Stormonth Darling

### Gift of £5000

anon

\*for the Richard Bridge Organ Ap-

## Christmas Festival 13-21 December

*Jonathan Dove, Artistic director of Spitalfields Festival writes:* Our sixth Winter Festival offers you the best way of celebrating Christmas or of escaping from it for a while. Come and lose yourself in the music-making of the finest choirs and instrumentalists, and enjoy music ranging across the centuries, from the sublime to the toe-tappingly cheerful. Two of our concerts are dedicated to the work of two twentieth-century masters: the extraordinary mystical vision of Messiaen, and Britten, who died twenty-five years ago, whose inspiration was so often expressed in song. As always, there are also chances to hear the sound of your own voice resonating in the hauntingly beautiful spaces of Christ Church. We look forward to seeing you.

For full event listings see the web-site [www.spitalfieldsfestival.org.uk](http://www.spitalfieldsfestival.org.uk) or call the Festival Hotline on 020 7377 0287 for a free leaflet and to book tickets. Concerts do sell out fast, so book early to avoid disappointment.

## Programme

Thursday 13 December, 6.30 pm: European Union Baroque Orchestra, conductor Andrew Manze  
Friday 14 December, 6.30 pm: English Voices choir, conductor Timothy Brown  
Monday 17 December, 5.30 pm: Community Carol Service  
Tuesday 18 December, 6.30 pm: Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, conductor Richard Marlow  
Wednesday 19 December, 1.05pm at Bishopsgate Institute: Sing for your lunch  
Wednesday 19 December, 6.30 pm: Allcomers  
Thursday 20 December, 6.30 pm: Peter Donohoe & Martin Roscoe perform Messiaen as a piano duo  
Friday 21 December, 6.30pm: City Chamber Choir, including audience participation.

## How to support the Friends

To become a Supporter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields please make a donation of a minimum of £20 p.a. (£25 for overseas). Supporters receive the Friends' quarterly newsletter *Columns*. They also receive advance notice of lectures and other special events that the Friends organise.

Your gift will be matched by Lottery funding at a ratio of 1 to 3. £20 donated to the Appeal enables

the Friends to do £80 of restoration work. In addition, if you are a UK taxpayer, we can now claim a further 28p for every pound you give us. Please sign the declaration below.

You can give money in two ways: by cheque (banker's or CAF), or by Banker's Order. Banker's Orders allow us to plan with more certainty and help keep down our administrative costs. Please complete the appropriate part of this page.

### I enclose my cheque for:

- £20    £25    £50    £250    £1,000  
 other .....

towards the restoration of:

- Christ Church Spitalfields  
 The Richard Bridge Organ  
 I would like the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields should reclaim tax on any donations that I make. I have paid an amount of UK income tax or capital gains tax equal to any tax reclaimed.

From time to time we would like to pass your name and address to other organisations or charities whose products and services we think may be of interest to you.

- I would prefer *not* to receive mail from them

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 Address.....  
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 E-mail.....

Thank you. Please return the completed page to:  
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### Banker's Order

To ..... Bank  
 of .....  
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 Re my account No .....

Please pay to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc of 67 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3DL, Sort Code 15-10-00 for the credit of The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields Account No. 13075487 the sum of:

£ ..... (insert amount)  
 on .....  
 and each anniversary thereof until cancelled by me. This donation is in addition to\*/replaces\* previous standing orders, if any, in favour of the Charity  
*\*delete as applicable*

Signature.....  
 Name.....  
 Date.....

We will process Banker's Orders and forward them to your bank.

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**Heritage Lottery Fund**



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