

# Columns

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THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH SPITALFIELDS  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 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 with this issue to make a donation, or telephone the Friends' office on 020 7859 3035, or visit our web site [www.christchurchspitalfields.org](http://www.christchurchspitalfields.org).*

## Progress report on the restoration

The amount of work going on inside Christ Church recently has been tremendous. The scaffolding which had filled the church since the beginning of the year has now been dismantled and great changes can be seen.

The nave floor is being laid with Purbeck stone slabs cut from St Aldheim's Quarry at Worth Matravers in Dorset. In February the Friends launched an appeal for the stone slabs: contributors are able to make a personal dedication and this will be recorded in a special hand written book. We have had an overwhelming response to this appeal and would like to thank all of you who have supported it so generously. The dedications cover a large span of Christ Church's history from acknowledgements of early Huguenot and Spitalfields ancestors to present day celebratory dedications to babies born within the last year. Supporters should, by now, have received an appeal leaflet. If you have not and would like one, please ring the Friends' office or visit our web site.

As well as the beautiful stone floor the other most striking element of work to be seen presently is the new panelling to the rear walls of the galleries which is nearly complete on both sides. The oak panelled gallery fronts are being fixed to their frames and at the same time the aisle ceilings are being plastered. Finally, the wainscoting to the walls below the galleries and around the column bases will be fitted. The elaborately carved oak brackets which will support the gallery balustrades are being carved by Gonzalez & Harms near Chard. The eleven new brackets are finished and they are currently repairing the twenty-seven surviving brackets. A historical note on their numbering is on page 4.

Less visible, but extremely important for the use of the building, are the staircases and vestries at the east end which are being rebuilt with new floors installed at gallery level.

When the church reopens, the congregation will return to the main church for services. Christ Church will also be a valuable resource as a public



*The nave of Christ Church showing a trial layout of a bay of the new Purbeck stone floor: each diagonal slab is laid in position dry to allow for adjustments of fitting and composition of the natural variations in colour before the whole bay is finally bedded into position and pointed.*

venue, ensuring the financial viability of the building. We are planning a refurbishment of the crypt to support this.

We are, finally, on the home stretch for the finish of the restoration of the interior. As we reach the end of the contract and look forward to Christ Church being re-opened, it is clear that there are items outside the scope of the main building contract which may have to be left out if we cannot fund them. These works include essential repairs to the pulpit and original font, the cleaning of the monuments, acoustic screens to the central arches at the west end and five hundred and fifty new stacking chairs. This will cost £120,000; if you can help in any way, however modestly, it will be greatly appreciated.

## **In Memory of Eric C. Elstob**

The response to Eric's request for donations in his memory to be given to the restoration of Christ Church has been considerable. We are very grateful to those people who have made gifts in his memory and we are hoping to identify a fitting part of the church to dedicate to him.

The Friends arranged to ring the bells of Spitalfields on the day of Eric Elstob's memorial service on 5 February 2004. They rang Grandsire Triples for nearly an hour.

Grandsire Triples is a much loved arrangement for seven bells with the eighth bell (called the tenor) tolling behind as all the other bells exchange places with each other, literally 'ringing the changes'. The bells were half-muffled giving a wonderful echo effect as every other strike of the bells was subdued by the leather muffles tied round the bells' clappers.

Mysteriously, half way through the ringing, the muffle on the tenor broke causing the bell to ring out loud and clear at every stroke. It was like Eric's booming voice telling us he was listening too.

The ringers were: 1 Janet Drake, 2 Christine Stafford, 3 Pauline Dingley, 4 Philip Vracas, 5 Debbie Malin, 6 Mark Harris, 7 Alan Regin (conductor), 8 Glyn Williams.

## **Dates for your diary**

### **London Open House**

**Saturday 18 September 2004**

Having been closed to the public for nearly two years, Christ Church will once again be participating in London Open House weekend and will be open on the Saturday from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm. (Please note we will not be open on Sunday.) This will be one of the first opportunities to see Christ Church re-opened and restored. We look forward to many of our supporters coming to visit.

### **Hawksmoor London Churches Bus tour**

**Saturday 25 September 2004**

This is an opportunity to see all six of Hawksmoor's London churches in a day, including the newly restored Christ Church, and to have an expert guide to explain their history and significance.

Please visit the web site or contact the Friends' office for further details and booking form.

## **Buy a chair for Christ Church**

A wide variety of events will be held at the re-opened Christ Church, from services to concerts and lectures, all requiring different seating arrangements. We have followed the example of St Paul's, Salisbury and Ely Cathedrals and has chosen the Howe 40/4 stacking chair.

The chairs work well with the architecture, are comfortable, durable and readily portable and will serve the needs of the building. They stack up to forty high and are stored on trolleys, so they are the ideal choice for a large space which sometimes needs lots of chairs and sometimes needs none.

What you can do to help – your support is vital: we need 550 chairs; each chair costs £160. Please buy a chair and, if you wish, make a special dedication. You may choose, for example, to commemorate a special person or celebrate a family event. Instead of plaques on individual chairs, donors will be recorded in a specially commissioned handwritten book commemorating the restoration.

You may not feel able to donate a whole chair; however any donation is welcome and will help us to reach our goal. Please contact the Friends' office or visit our website for further details.

We are very grateful for the generous support of all donors.

## **Fill the gap – the Christ Church floor appeal**

We have had a wonderful response to this appeal and have, to date, raised over £20,000 in donations from individuals. Together with tax relief from the Inland Revenue Gift Aid scheme and Lottery Funding this will be amplified to provide £100,000 worth of paving stones. We have acknowledged all donations individually and donors have had the opportunity to make a dedication for their paving stone in a specially commissioned handwritten book which will commemorate the restoration. We would like to thank you warmly – it has made a real difference!

The appeal is still running and if you would like to pay for a stone and make a dedication, please contact the Friends' office or visit our website.

## Thank you

The campaign to restore Christ Church relies on the support of many people. The Friends would like to thank law firm Ashursts for generously providing an office; for printing this edition of columns and other printed material.

Thank you to our volunteers who come and help both in the office and at special events. We are particularly grateful to Gill Hernon, Fiona Ligonnet and Christopher Woodward who provide reliable and regular back up in the office throughout the year.

## Back up support

The Friends Office is run with a small number of staff in order to keep our overhead costs to a minimum. If you would like to get involved with the Friends in a practical way, and you could spare a few hours of your time, why not come and help us?

### Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for help during office hours – particularly to help with the mailings. We also need people to help at our special events.

### London Open House Weekend

is coming up soon and Christ Church will be open for this event on Saturday 18 September 2004. We anticipate that Christ Church will attract much interest and we will need many helpers.

One of the benefits of being a helper for this event is that you are entitled to a special London Open House Volunteer's pass which enables you to bypass the queues at other buildings.

Please contact the Friends' office if you are interested.

### Postage

If you or your business could help with postage facilities this would help greatly with our mailings.

Please contact the Friends office: 020 7859 3035.

## 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.

In addition to those who have given to the floor appeal, those who have made donations in memory of Eric and those who prefer to remain anonymous, we would like to thank the following for their recent donations.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank publicly all those who give to the restoration by standing order, thereby saving us paperwork.

### Gifts of £100 and over

Anonymous  
Mr John Clay  
Mr Ralph Cunningham  
Mr J E Dallas  
Mr James Gibb  
Mr Neil Iosson  
Mr D A Pears  
Mrs J M Roberts  
Mr Andrew Soundy  
Ms Thelma D Stollar  
Mr & Mrs S Summerson  
Rev. Andrew Walker  
Mr & Mrs A P Williams  
W & E Harris Charitable Trust

### Gifts of £200 and over

Sir Peter Cazalet  
Mr Geoffrey Collens  
Mrs Pauline Pinder  
Mr & Mrs P R Smith  
Worshipful Company of Basketmakers'  
Charitable Trust

### Gifts of £500 and over

Mr George Josselyn  
Lesley David Trust  
Spitalfields Society

### Gifts of £1000 and over

Mr Peter Stormonth Darling  
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

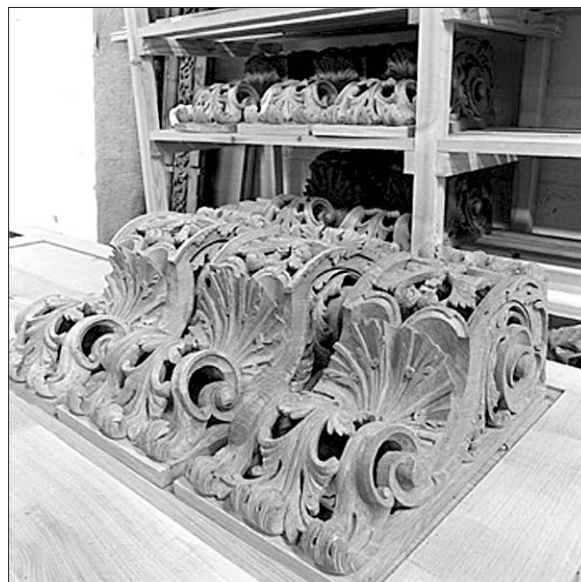
## Personal Column

*The Friends are pleased to announce that there is a new incumbent at Christ Church Spitalfields. Andy Rider together with his wife Carol and their family, moved into the Rectory at No.2 Fournier Street in November last year. He has been licensed by the Bishop of Stepney as Priest-in-Charge. We warmly welcome his arrival and wish him well in a time of great change and exciting prospects at Christ Church. Columns invited him to provide this short biography.*

Andy grew up in Sussex, during his school days he captained the rugby team, sang in the choir and was a key member of both the swimming and athletics squads. He left school at seventeen to work as a lifeguard at the local swimming pool. At the age of nineteen Andy became a Christian, and shortly afterwards began to follow God's call upon his life; first as a psychiatric nurse, then working for Barnardos in a children's home before training for ministry in the Church of England. Since ordination Andy has worked in churches in the Medway towns and central London, he has also been chaplain to a Special Care baby unit and the New London Theatre.

Andy, with his wife Carol and their three children moved to Spitalfields last November from the West End where he had been on the staff of All Souls Langham Place as the 'Clubhouse Vicar' for the last ten years. Whilst leading the Clubhouse Andy and the youth work team launched one of the first Christian mentoring schemes in the country working with teenagers at risk of social exclusion. He also oversaw a building refurbishment programme for which he did a sponsored parachute jump!

Alongside his work at Christ Church Andy has involvement with a couple of charities working with ex offenders and the homeless, in his spare time he enjoys cooking, gardening, travelling and going to the cinema. He did not wildly enjoy training for the London Marathon which he ran this year (in 5 hours and 17 minutes) to raise money for a Christian counselling service.



*At Gonzalez & Harms' workshop near Chard, Somerset, the eleven new carved brackets are finished and await delivery to Christ Church.*

## The curious numbering of the carved brackets for Christ Church

As regular supporters and readers of *Columns* are aware, very few of the original drawings and plans for Christ Church have survived. Much of the evidence for the restoration of the church has been painstakingly pieced together by close examination of the original accounts, the restoration in 1822 and physical evidence from the building itself. Over the years curiosities have arisen some which eventually become clear and others which remain still to be solved. One such which the reader might find interesting has arisen over the brackets to the galleries.

In the original accounts the carvers' and joiners' accounts tally. In the joiners' accounts there are reported forty-two brackets glued and fitted for the carver. When work started on the restoration of Christ Church it was noticed that the brackets had Roman numerals stamped on the back of them. Red Mason, architect for the restoration, recently assembled a complete list. There is evidence of every number up to 38 (although curiously no evidence of number 13) but there is no evidence of numbers 39–42.

Supported by the  
**Heritage Lottery Fund**



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## How to support the Friends

To become a Supporter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields please make a donation of a minimum of £25 p.a. (£30 for overseas). Supporters receive the Friends' quarterly newsletter *Columns* and advance notice of tours, lectures and other special events that the Friends organise.

Your gift will be matched by Lottery funding: this means that £25 donated to the Appeal enables the Friends to do £100 of restoration work.

### I enclose my cheque for:

- £25    £30    £50    £250    £1,000  
 other . . . . .

towards the restoration of:

- Christ Church Spitalfields  
 The Richard Bridge Organ

Please make cheques payable to:  
The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields.

We would like to acknowledge gifts of £100 or more in *Columns*. Please tell us if you wish to remain anonymous.

### Please complete both parts of the form below:

I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and any subsequent donations I make as Gift Aid donations. I understand that I must have paid an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax you reclaim on my donations. This does not apply to CAF donations.

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 several ways: by cheque (bank or CAF), by Standing Order which allows us to plan ahead and helps keep down administrative costs, by payroll giving through Give As You Earn or with credit/debit card through our web site. Please complete the appropriate parts of this page.

### Standing Order

To .....Bank  
of .....  
.....  
.....Bank address  
Account no.....Sort code .....-.....-.....

Please pay to the Royal Bank of Scotland plc of 62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8LA, Sort Code 15-10-00 for the credit of The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields Account No. 13075487 the sum of:

£..... each    month    quarter    year  
starting on dd/mm/yy (no earlier than one month from today, please) until further notice. This donation is in addition to\*/replaces\* previous Standing Orders, if any, in favour of the Charity. We will process Standing Orders and forward them to your bank. *\*delete as applicable*

### Please complete both parts of the form below:

Signature .....Date.....  
Name .....  
Address .....  
.....  
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Postcode .....  
Telephone number .....  
E-mail address .....

Data Protection Act 1998: the information you provide will only be used by the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields and will not be passed to any other organisations.

Thank you. Please return the completed page to:  
FOCCS, FREEPOST, LONDON E1 6BR

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