

Columns

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THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH SPITALFIELDS
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 276056

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, 020 7859 3035, or visit our website: www.christchurchspitalfields.org

Research continues – fundraising gathers pace

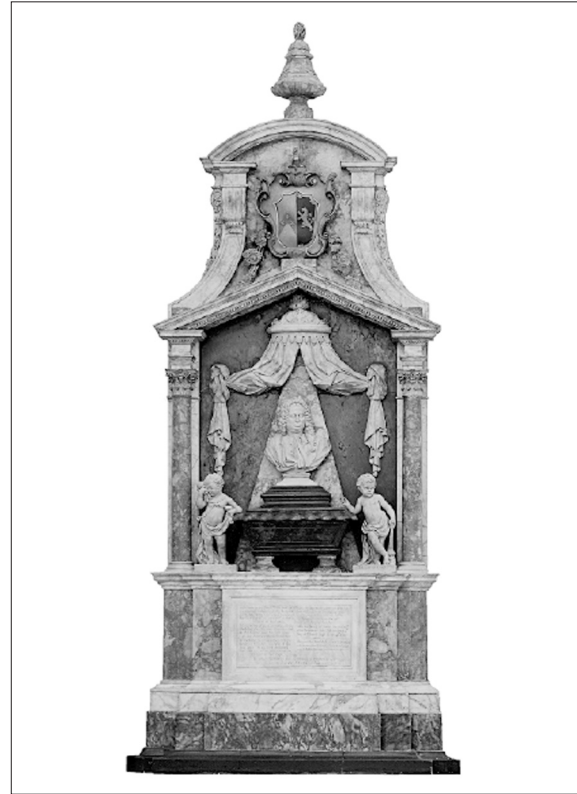
The Friends have begun fundraising in earnest to raise the large sums needed to restore the magnificent Christ Church organ.

As well as the continuing loyal and generous support from two thousand Supporters around the world, The Friends are delighted to be able to report that the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts have made generous grants totalling £170,000. Chairman of the Trustees Christine Whaite said: 'These generous grants have given a wonderful boost to our fundraising campaign and I hope will encourage others to contribute to this exciting restoration project. We are tremendously grateful to the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts for their generosity and support'.

Before work to the instrument itself can begin, the extraordinary mahogany case will be repaired and restored. The Friends commissioned Catherine Hassall to investigate the painted, gilded and varnished surfaces of the organ case in order to establish the original decorative scheme of 1735. In the main restoration of Christ Church, much of the evidence for the restoration scheme was archaeological and the scheme for the restoration of the organ case is similarly likely to be based on the findings of Hassall's report.

Although some high level areas of the case cannot be reached until a full scaffold is erected, the report has revealed fascinating details about the original decorative scheme and the alterations and changes that have taken place since. The organ has been refurbished and redecorated at least five times in its 270 year history. The report gives details of the decoration of the case in 1852, a partial redecoration in the late nineteenth century and again in the early twentieth century. When major works were carried out in the church in 1866 there was extensive work to the organ gallery and on either side of the organ. The church was repainted at this date, again in 1910 and possibly after electricity was installed in the 1920s, and work was carried out on the organ in 1926 when the tuba section was installed.

Initial reports from the analysis seems to suggest that the decorative scheme for the organ may have been along the lines of St Botolph Aldgate which has recently been restored.



The Edward Peck monument, one of two new postcards the Friends have recently produced. Details and order forms for these and other cards and publications can be obtained from the Friends' office or downloaded from the website: www.christchurchspitalfields.org

Architect appointed to redevelop the crypt at Christ Church Spitalfields

At the end of 2008 a competition was organised to select an architect to make design proposals for the redevelopment of the crypt at Christ Church. The crypt was used for burials between 1729 and 1866. Since then the layout of the parochial and private vaults determined the uses which could be made of the crypt and the layout of its rooms; many of the existing brick walls subdividing the crypt date from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Most of the burials were removed in the 1980s. Only limited works were carried out in the crypt during the major restoration of the church completed in 2004, and now there is an opportunity for its complete re-planning to meet the present and future needs of the church.

A short list of five architectural practices were invited to submit design proposals: Carmody Groarke, Meadowcroft Griffin, Molyneux Kerr, Witherford

Watson Mann and Dow Jones Architects. Their proposals were reviewed by a panel including Revd Andy Rider, Rector of Christ Church, representatives of the Parochial Church Council and The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields, along with architectural advisers, Adam Caruso of Caruso St John and Eric Parry of Eric Parry Associates. The panel unanimously selected Dow Jones Architects.

Now that architects have been appointed for its redevelopment, the process of developing a design and layout that will bring the crypt into full use can begin. The redevelopment project will be led by the Parochial Church Council. Your generous donations have enabled The Friends to pledge £125,000 towards the historical restoration work in the crypt.

Profile of Dow Jones Architects

Dow Jones Architects is deeply attuned to the role of history in architecture and the importance that memory plays in our perceptions of place. This interest in cultural sedimentation means that when you look at a Dow Jones building you feel a sense of familiarity, even though the overall effect is contemporary.

Jes Fernie, *Blueprint*, April 2006

Columns spoke to Biba Dow of Dow Jones about their practice.

How do you approach each new project?

We are interested in understanding each project from a contextual point of view, in the broadest sense, physically and culturally, so that our design responds to the people and the place. Each project starts with conversations with our client, to try to understand as much as possible about the place. We spend time getting to know the site or building and the area around it.

How important to you is the history of the building on which you're working?

The history of the building is always important, and here at Christ Church particularly so. The building is seeped in history, architecturally as well as socially.

What have you worked on recently?

We have just finished a project at the Garden Museum in Lambeth, where we remodelled the interior with a two-storey structure to provide much-needed exhibition and education spaces. We used a pre-fabricated engineered timber system to make a structure which would have a low structural impact on the existing building; a deconsecrated church. The structure was erected in 3 weeks, which was essential so that the museum only closed for three months for refurbishment. What we are most pleased with is that the new structure, which is very contemporary, sits very comfortably within the existing building and brings it a new clarity. The design also resolved operational problems of the museum by exceeding the brief of the original competition, but was achieved within the same tight budget and programme.

Other recent projects include the remodelling of a Victorian warehouse in Borough, where we made concrete insertions for the kitchen and bathroom, and rebuilt the roof as two new habitable oak box girders clad in copper; one is a large roof light and one a roof-top pavilion with spectacular views. We also recently rebuilt a house on the village green in Walberswick, Suffolk, making a house entirely of clay and oak. The house creates a series of rooms which open onto its mature layered back garden. We were interested in using the vernacular building material in a pared-down way to make something arrestingly contemporary.

We are always interested in finding the right material to make a particular project, and to use it in an interesting way.

Are there any particular aspects that you are looking forward to in this project?

We have always admired the work of Hawksmoor, and in particular Christ Church since getting to know it as architecture students, so it is a joy and honour to have been chosen as architects for the crypt. We were living off Brick Lane when we started our practice, so it feels like familiar territory too.

We are also very interested in the many uses to which Christ Church is put and the many different worlds it occupies. The challenge will be to make a project which is open and flexible enough to respond to all those different worlds and to allow the building to develop in the future, while at the same time being specific enough to be functional and have the character it deserves. In the competition, we described our project as a small town: it has separate spaces and everyday functions that can be transformed for particular events. Now we have to make that idea work in reality.

Dates for your diary

Nicholas Hawksmoor's London Churches

All day bus tour Saturday 12 September 2009

This tour will visit six of the remarkable Hawksmoor churches built by the Commissioners of the Fifty New Churches Act of 1711. This is a unique opportunity to see six of his finest works in a day accompanied by an expert guide. These tours are always very popular and booking early is recommended.

The cost including bus, lunch, donations to churches and notes, is £70 per person (£60 for paid-up Supporters). Please contact the Friends' office for further details and a booking form.

Open House London 2009

Christ Church will be participating again this year.

Saturday 19 September 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday 20 September 1.30 – 4 pm

Do come and visit us.

If you would like to be a volunteer steward during the weekend, please contact the Friends' office.

Spitalfields Music Summer Festival 7 – 19 June 2009

Details at: www.spitalfieldsfestival.org.uk

How to support the Friends

To become an acknowledged Supporter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields please make a minimum annual donation of £25 (£30 for overseas). You can contribute towards the restoration of Christ Church or the Richard Bridge Organ. Supporters receive the Friends' newsletter *Columns* and advance notice of tours, lectures and other special events that the Friends organise.

You can give money in several ways:

- by **payroll giving** through Give As You Earn
- with a **credit or debit card** through our web site.

Or, by completing the appropriate parts of this page:

- by **standing order** (helping us to plan ahead and keep down administrative costs)
- by bank or CAF **cheque**.

Standing Order

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

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. The Friends will process Standing Orders and forward them to your bank.

**delete as applicable*

Please complete the sections below:

I enclose my cheque for:

- £25 £30 £50 £250 £1,000
 other £.

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

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I am a UK taxpayer and would like The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields to treat all donations that I make (and until I notify you otherwise) 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.

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Please allocate my donation towards the restoration of:

- Christ Church Spitalfields
 The Richard Bridge Organ

The Friends would like to acknowledge gifts of £25 or more in *Columns*, but if you wish to remain anonymous please tick the box below:

Please do not print my name in *Columns*

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Address

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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 EI 6BR

Thank you

The Friends are grateful for the generosity of the many individuals and organisations who support the Restoration and Organ Appeals. We would like to thank the law firm Ashurst for generously providing an office; for printing this issue 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 Heron and Susan

Whitehead who provide reliable and regular back up in the office throughout the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who prefer to remain anonymous and those who give to the restoration by standing order, thereby saving on administrative costs. We would also like to thank the following for their recent donations:

Gifts of £25 and over

Mr & Mrs K Baker *
Miss S R Bickford
Mrs P Boone
Mr D Crosby *
Mrs C D'Albiac
Mrs A F Davy *In memory of my cousin, Eric Elstob*
Mrs H Douglas
Mrs J L Eardley
Dr J P Ellis
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Glossop Pryor Foundation
Miss C Gordon Shute
Mrs F Hugill *
Mr & Mrs E Ruscoe *
The Sainer Charity *
Mr J Scott-Oldfield *
Dr E J Shaw * *In memory of my forebears William and James Stillwell, baptised in Christ Church in 1769 & 1789 respectively*
Mr A J Soundy
Mr K West *

Gifts of £200 and over

Mr & Mrs N Baring *
Sir Peter Cazalet
Mr G A Collens *
Mr A Murray-Jones
Mr J W Scott *
Mr P Stormonth Darling
Mrs P Pinder

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Henderson Smaller Companies Investment Trust *

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The estate of the late Mr S Summerson *

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