The Friends of St Clement Danes

Registered Charity No. 1048757

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Co-opted: Reverend Mark Perry RAF – Resident Chaplain

O&L Publication
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The Friends of St Clement Danes

Issue No. 55
Spring 2023

ROYAL AIR FORCE St Clement Danes Church

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"Enabling the sacrifices of the past to support the challenges of the future."

Editorial Note

Iza Seabrook



It is my pleasure to edit the current issue of Oranges & Lemons.
A few personal landmarks this year as my Eldest enters Secondary School out of the smog of old London!
I hope you are able to make your way into the lovely cool walls of St Clement Danes at some point this year – there is a lot to look forward to, despite the uncertain times.

If you have articles or pictures you wish to see published, please email me: iza.seabrook@gmail.com



Trustees' Book

Located within the crypt at St Clement Danes is The Trustees' Book. The book contains the names of people who have died since leaving the Royal Air Force. Names can be included at the request of family members of the deceased, for which a fee of £40 is payable. To apply for an entry in The Trustees' Book please email: info@stclementdanesraf.org and request an application form.

Chairman's Letter

Group Captain Mark D Heffron MA FCG CMgr FCMI RAF



They say to never start with an apology; however, I must begin this piece by extending my apologies: I was not able to attend the Annual Concert last December due to exigencies of the Service. I know that the evening was a huge success and a big thank you goes to all who helped make it happen. In particular I would like to thank Peter Neville Lewis, who co-ordinated the event as his last duty on the Board of Trustees. Peter leaves us after many years of unwavering service; his wise council and huge efforts will be missed by all, of that there is no doubt. There will be a concert this year on Thursday 30 November and I hope to see many of our members and their guests there.

As one Board member moves into retirement, this leaves us with space to welcome new people to our team. If you would like to assist the Board in our work, I would be delighted to hear from you. Your expertise and views would be highly valued. We meet 4 times a year and work alongside the RAF Chaplains Branch and the Resident Chaplain to support the work of St Clement Danes for all serving and former serving members of the RAF and their families. I thank you all for your support of The Friends, together we are making a real difference to St Clement Danes Church, the Central Church of the RAF.

From the Resident Chaplain

Reverend Mark Perry



Looking back at the time since the last Oranges & Lemons it is quite amazing to reflect on the enormity of what has taken place at St Clement Danes Church. From the Battle of Britain Service to the late Queen Elizabeth's passing, we've had the annual Lord Mayors Show, visits from the USAF Chief of the Chaplains Department and the Holland and Colorado WWII Veterans as well as various Force Development and school visits.

With numerous Remembrance and Memorial services, including our annual Thanksgiving Service, as well as the regular RAF Music recitals and music concerts, our musical heritage is alive and thriving.

The 1941 Appeal was launched with the then Prince of Wales and, now, His Majesty King Charles III as patron; funds have been encouraging. The Central Church of the RAF is certainly buzzing with activity and energy. It was an absolute pleasure to meet many of the Friends gathered for a spectacular Christmas Annual Concert with the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment conducted by the Principal Director of Music Wg Cdr Piers Morell OBE and the talented Choir of St Clement Danes led by our outstanding Director

of Music Simon Over and Assistant Director Charlie Newsome-Hubbard.

Music features highly at St Clement Danes and we look forward to increasing the recital and concert programme, so keep an eye on the website and social media for further details.

May I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your support in the ministry and work of St Clement Danes, the Central Church of the RAF. I look forward to seeing you during 2023.

A Message from the Membership Secretary

…just to say a big thank you to all the members who have kindly replied to our request to update their information for our GDPR requirements. This is greatly appreciated and has really helped me get our records more accurate.

However, there are still some life members who have not responded, and I would appeal to you to do so. Please complete the form that was sent out with the previous two editions of Oranges & Lemons and return it to me as per the instructions on the form. If you have any questions, email me: membership@fscd.org.uk

Thanks again,

J Gavin Turnbull, Membership Secretary

COVER STORY Recording the Lives of the Allied Aircrew of the Battle of Britain

Geoff Simpson

Consulting Editor for the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust's Database & a contributor to the book 'Men of the Battle of Britain'

The Battle of Britain Memorial Trust's Database of the Few was launched in 2022. It contains biographical details of every Allied airman, from a wide variety of countries, known to have qualified for the "immediate" award of the 1939 – 1945 Star with Battle of Britain Clasp. The majority of almost 3,000 entries are accompanied by photographs of the men concerned.

Kenneth G Wynn (1925 – 2020) provided the basis of the database through his research, together with collaborators, for his book *Men of the Battle of Britain.* This was first published in 1989 and now runs to three editions and two supplementary volumes. In 2010 all the rights to the book, and Ken Wynn's material for it, were acquired from the author and the then publisher and donated anonymously to the Memorial Trust.

Since then, I have co-ordinated the contributions of a team of researchers as we work to keep expanding the information held on the Few. We now take more and more interest, not just in their flying careers, but their family backgrounds, education, civilian occupations and relatives who also served their countries. In this way we hope that the work is of interest to social, as well as military historians. Sometimes, in writing and re-writing entries, I find myself travelling down interesting, if not strictly relevant, byways. At least three pilots have a connection to the James Bond stories written by Ian Fleming. Indeed, Squadron Leader (in 1940) Harry Eeles was related to James Bond. He was a stepbrother of the ornithologist of that name who produced a standard work on the birds of the West Indies. Fleming had a copy of the book and, looking for an ordinary name for his hero, borrowed "James Bond" from his bookshelves.



Some of the Few moved in artistic circles. Pilot Officer James Buchanan (pictured left) was killed in action on 27 July 1940 in a Spitfire of No 609 Squadron. His family home in Sussex was, between the wars, the hub of a creative community which, for a time, included Paul Nash whose painting, *Battle of Britain* (1941) is often reproduced. Squadron Leader Hamish West's father was the Scottish watercolourist, David West.

Perhaps most worthy of mention in this context is the Old Etonian, Flight Lieutenant Hugh Joseph "Huseph" Riddle, whose career as an artist included a commission to paint the Late Queen Elizabeth II for the RAF Regiment in 1965.



The social backgrounds of the Few are more varied than is sometimes supposed. One of the earliest Spitfire aces was Flight Sergeant Bill Franklin (pictured left) of No 65 Squadron. He was born in Poplar in 1911 and attended Thomas Street Central School in Limehouse.

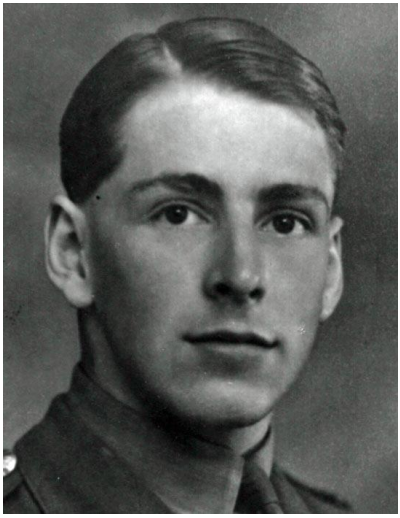
His father was a general labourer who was killed with the King's Royal Rifle Corps in the Great War. Bill Franklin was commissioned before the end of the Battle of Britain and was lost in action on 12 December 1940.



Chronicled too are the efforts of many of the Polish and Czechoslovak aircrew to reach England, often via service with French forces. Among them was Pilot Officer Jaroslav Sterbacek (pictured left) who had escaped from Czechoslovakia to France and then to Britain.

His first day of fighting with No 310 Squadron was 31 August 1940 and his Hurricane did not return to Duxford from an engagement over the Thames Estuary. His remains were never found and he is commemorated at Runnymede.

However, unusually, somebody has funded a CWGC-style gravestone, appropriate to his nationality, with his name on at Brookwood cemetery in Surrey.



There seems little doubt that the middle name of Pilot Officer Richard Chester Lawson (pictured left), a Hurricane pilot with No 601 Squadron, reflected a point in the career of his father.

In 1916 Captain (later Rear Admiral) Robert Lawson commanded the new light cruiser, HMS *Chester*, at the Battle of Jutland. The ship was badly hit and from the bridge Captain Lawson witnessed the mortally wounded 16-year-old Boy (First Class) John “Jack” Cornwell remaining at his post awaiting further orders. Captain

Lawson's report led to the award of a posthumous VC to Cornwell. Richard Lawson stayed with 601 Squadron. He was lost in February 1941 during a Roadstead, a low-level attack on coastal shipping.

The oldest man known to have qualified for the Battle of Britain Clasp was Pilot Officer Sydney Carlin, a veteran of the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, who was 51 when he flew as a Defiant air gunner with No 264 Squadron.



The youngest pilot with a proven birth date was Pilot Officer (Martyn) Aurel King (pictured left) who was born in Essex on 15 October 1921. He was therefore not yet 19 on 16 August 1940 when he was forced to bale out over the outskirts of Southampton during the action for which Flight Lieutenant "Nick" Nicolson was awarded the VC. Pilot Officer King's parachute collapsed on the way down, apparently damaged by enemy fire when his aircraft was attacked, and he died shortly after landing.

Historians, authors and researchers are invited to make use of the Database of the Few. It can be inspected at the National Memorial to the Few at Capel-le-Ferne, Kent, battleofbritain.org, or questions can be addressed to: enquiries@battleofbritainmemorial.org

Do you have new information on the pilots and other aircrew who earned the Battle of Britain Clasp? Please contact me at: geoffsimpsonemail@gmail.com

Friends of St Clement Danes Annual Concert

Peter Neville Lewis

At last, we were able to put Covid restrictions behind us and hold our annual Friends' concert with appropriate precautions. Our church looked magnificent as always and our new chaplain, Padre Mark Perry, was able to experience a full congregation for the first time.



This year we had the Band of the RAF Regiment, who gave us a wonderful music programme, supported by the church's choir and their very talented soprano soloist. The standard of music was as good as ever and clearly well appreciated, judging by the audience applause.

This year our Patron-in-Chief, HRH Duke of Gloucester could not be with us, nor could the Chief of Air Staff. However, Lady Wigston kindly deputised and told us afterwards how impressed she had been by the quality of the evening.



It was gratifying to have a cohort of about 20 RAF personnel (from Air Sales and Governance) who wanted to witness proceedings and we were joined by a large party from the local Masonic Lodge. The Lodge have been associated with the Church for many years and are keen supporters. The annual Friends' concert always gives a good deal of pleasure so let's look forward to another happy evening later this year.

The date is already fixed for 30 November at 7pm, so please make a note in your diary.

We thank you for your generous support and hope the long tradition of music-making at St Clement Danes Church for the Friends will continue for many more years.



Hold the date for Annual Friends of St Clement Danes Concert:

30 November 2023 at 7pm

Church Diary

Sunday services take place weekly at 11am unless stated otherwise.

02 Apr	Service of the Word: Palm Sunday
09 Apr	Service of the Word: Easter Day Service
16 Apr	Private Service - closed to the public
23 Apr	Choral Matins
07 May	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
14 May	Choral Matins
21 May	Choral Eucharist
28 May	Choral Matins
04 Jun	Choral Eucharist with Baptism
11 Jun	Choral Matins
18 Jun	Choral Eucharist
25 Jun	Choral Matins
02 Jul	Choral Eucharist
09 Jul	Choral Matins
16 Jul	Choral Eucharist
23 Jul	Choral Matins
30 Jul	Choral Eucharist
06 Aug	Choral Eucharist
13 Aug	Choral Matins
20 Aug	Choral Eucharist
27 Aug	Choral Matins

News from the Parish Registers

We are delighted to share in families' excitement when they come to St Clement Danes for a Wedding or a Baptism.

Baptisms

Evelia Diana Jicin Pallett (6 Nov)
Charlotte Abigail Rowenna Bradburn (4 Dec)
Ottilie Margaux Lamb Pearson (4 Dec)

Weddings

Andrea Longley & Christopher Cox (20 May)
Helen Dorricott & Thomas Denny (10 June)
Arabella Goldring & Tom Reynolds (29 July)

Requests for Baptisms, Weddings and Marriage Blessings should be made to the Resident Chaplain.



1941 Appeal Update

Jules Sherwood



Thank you for your very kind and wonderful support of the 1941 Appeal launched in April 2022. In addition to the money raised by the Friends of St Clement Danes in 2021, a special mention needs to be made to all those Friends who kindly donated a further £1,030 in answer to the call of donating an “inch” towards the steeple restoration. Thank you all for your amazing donations.

It has been a challenging period, not least recovering from the Covid pandemic and additional external factors notwithstanding the cost-of-living crisis to navigate over and around.

However, we are delighted to report that in the first year of the appeal we have managed to raise over £50,000 – so whilst we do have a very long way to go significant progress is being made. When we achieve the 1941 Appeal donations target of £2 million for the repair of the steeple the work can then commence.



The steeple was inspected again in early February by a specialist team of steeplejacks, they climb the exterior of the steeple, looking for signs of further damage and degradation of the 1719 structure. We are now awaiting their report of the current condition and hope the cold winter has not caused further serious damage.



We have also started the work to develop the concept of the Crypt enlargement with our partners The Princes' Foundation. They have expert knowledge in the conservation and use of historic buildings throughout the UK and further afield. Although planning is in the early stages, the main aim is to develop a wellbeing and community hub for veterans and local people.

If you feel you are able to make a donation towards the 1941 Appeal, please do visit our website donation page: https://stclementdanesraf.org/give/ or contact me, Jules Sherwood, Development Director on email: Jules.sherwood@stclementdanesraf.org

I would be delighted to hear from you and help you fundraise to secure the future of our church.



Pictured above some of the damage to the carvings at St Clement Danes Church.

Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of St Clement Danes, held in the Crypt Chapel

Thursday 1 December 2022

Present
Wg Cdr Chris 'CJ' Hill – Trustee / Acting Chairman
Mr John Bayles
Mr Artur Bildziuk
Wg Cdr Di Bentley – Co-opted Trustee
Mr Peter Holtby
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr Peter Kettle
Mrs Margaret Kettle
Mr James McKinley
Mr Peter Neville Lewis – Trustee
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFVR (T) – Trustee
Mr C C K Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull – Membership Secretary
Scott Williamson – Treasurer
Mr E Robin G Youle

Apologies
Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Rev Mark Perry RAF – Resident Chaplain & Co-Opted Trustee
Gp Capt Peter Bedford
Mr Michael Collas – Trustee
Mrs Mary Holtby
Mrs Elspeth Kerr
Mr Hugh Kerr
Mrs Gwynfa Podgorski
Mr David Savage
Mrs Peta Walmesley
Ms Susan Weaver
Mrs Jennifer M Youle

1. Prayer
The Acting Chairman opened the AGM with prayers.

2. Apologies
Apologies were noted.

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks
The Acting Chairman welcomed those present to the AGM.
The Chairman had written a letter of condolence to the Friends Patron, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, following the death of Her late Majesty. A reply had been received which was read out.

4. Election of Officers and Trustees
The Acting Chairman thanked Trustees for their service over the past year.
Peter Kettle proposed and Robin Youle seconded the election of the following Trustees for the coming year:

The Ven Canon Ray Pentland – President
Gp Capt Mark Heffron RAF – Chairman
Wg Cdr C J Hill
Mr Daniel Kettle – O&L Manager
Mr Peter Neville Lewis
Flt Lt Ian Perring RAFVR (T)
Mr Chris Priebe – Secretary
Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull – Membership Secretary
Mr Scott Williamson – Treasurer

Co-Opted
Wg Cdr Diana Bentley
Revd Mark Perry RAF – Resident Chaplain

The resolution was passed unanimously on a show of hands.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting
The minutes of the last AGM had been made available via the Spring 2022 edition of O&L magazine and the Acting Chairman asked if there

were any questions. There being none, the minutes were accepted unanimously on a show of hands, Gavin Turnbull proposing and Scott Williamson seconding.

6. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30 June 2022 were distributed (see page 25).

The Treasurer detailed the various sources of cash inflows and outflows. With £15,357 on the receipts side (including a £5,000 legacy) and £26,462 of expenditure, a deficit of £11,105 was reported for the year. As a result, the total cash balance of around £80,344 that existed 30 June 2021 had fallen to £69,238 on 30 June 2022.

The Treasurer explained that last year £11,777 of member donations to the Main Trust church tower repair appeal were included in last financial year's receipts figure. However, the Acting Chairman presented a cheque for £13,527 to the Main Trust, which was recorded in this financial year. As there were much lower church tower member donations this year, but last years were paid out, receipts this year dropped and expenditure rose.

The Treasurer explained that as receipts for the year were less than £25,000, a formal audit of the accounts was not required under Charity Commission rules. Approval of the accounts was proposed by C J Hill, seconded by Scott Williamson and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reported that last year he thought membership numbers stood at 541. Currently we have 484 due to the loss principally of Life Members including, very sadly, the wife of the first ever Membership Secretary of the Friends. Annual subscription-paying member numbers are about the same.

In an effort to get a more accurate picture of actual member numbers, letters had been sent out to members as part of the distribution of the Spring and Autumn O&L magazines, asking members to confirm their

details. 60% replied overall (74% of annual subscription payers and 48% of life members). He also appealed to those present to be on the lookout for potential new members and ask them to join the Friends. The Trustees recommended keeping subscription fees at their current level for the time being. This will be reviewed in advance of the next AGM.

8. Any Other Business

The Treasurer explained the Trustees had reviewed the methodology for calculating the cash reserve set aside to cover reimbursements in the event that the Friends should cease to operate. From 2013 to date, the calculation assumed an 80-year life span for members, with the reserve declining every year to zero at the point that milestone was achieved. Under that calculation methodology, around £40,000 would be held in reserve overall, roughly the equivalent of the balance held in the Friends' Unity Bank account. However, given that the one-off up-front life membership subscription, when it was available, was roughly the equivalent of 18 regular annual subscriptions, and assuming Friends would feel they had received full value for their subscription after 18 years had passed and not expect a refund thereafter, if the reserve is calculated by amortising the life membership fee across 18 years for each individual life membership, the overall reserve for all life memberships would total £12,290. In other words, around £30,000 of reserves would be freed up. The reserve would also decline to zero in about ten years from now.

The Trustees recommended that this new calculation methodology be adopted. Approval of the new reserve calculation methodology was proposed by the Acting Chairman, seconded by Peter Neville Lewis and passed unanimously on a show of hands.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

Friends AGM – Thursday 30 November 2023 at 4pm in the Crypt Chapel,
Friends Annual Concert – Thursday 30 November 2023 at 7pm.

C. C. K. Priebe
Secretary

Group Captain M. D. Heffron
Chairman

Financial Report for the AGM
Accounting Year Ending 30 June 2022

Scott Williamson

The CC16A, which records the income and expenditure categories on which we report to the Charity Commission at the end of the year, is shown on the accompanying two pages. The figures are rounded up or down to the nearest whole pound in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. Explanations of key areas are given in the paragraphs below.

All of what happened during the year was affected by the pandemic which impacted on just about everything and everyone during the accounting year. However, it is encouraging to see that things are improving.

Our total income was £15,357 (£22,887 last year). Last year our income was unusually high because of the success of the Spire Appeal – so this year income is at a more normal level.

Our income was made up of subscriptions, donations, Gift Aid claims and bank interest. Subscriptions were £6,387 (£6,105 last year). Our Membership Secretary's efforts are having a positive effect on our income. Total donations and legacies for the year were £6,434 (£2,136 last year). 2021-22 saw the return of the Concert and that generated £1,410 of ticket revenue. Gift Aid claims added £888 to our balance and more repayment claims are in hand. Bank interest was a mere £3 (£7 last year). Finally, we received £55 from sales. Hopefully we will see this increase during the current year.

Expenditure for the year was £26,462 (£8,024 last year). A large part of that was due to our presentation of a cheque for £13,527 to the church at last year's concert for the Spire Appeal. Grants paid to the Church totalled £1,210 (£1,560 last year). We anticipate that this will increase in the current year. Payment for the issues of the Oranges & Lemons, including printing costs, postage and editor fees were slightly up at £6,075 (£5,465 last year). The Concert incurred costs of £3,395 which was a bit up on the costs of the 2019 Concert. There was, of course no 2020 concert. Bank charges for the running of the BACS system for membership direct debits and general charges were £778 (£709 last year).

Expenditure is completed by Trustee expenses and general support costs £1,007 compared to £29 in the previous year. The only positive thing about the pandemic was that it reduced some of our expenses!

At the end of the year we had a deficit amounting to £11,105 and we ended the year with our Bank Accounts holding £69,238 (£80,344 last year). Much of that deficit is, of course from the Spire Appeal donation which was paid to the main Church Charity. To put that in perspective the balances on 30 June 2020 were £65,481, so we are still a bit better off than we were then. In accordance with Charity Commission Regulations as our income is below £25,000 we do not require an audit or Independent Examination.

Your Trustees are content that the information presented herein is a true and accurate statement of the financial affairs of the Friends of St Clement Danes.



Friends of St Clement Danes Church			1048757
Receipts and payments accounts			**CC16a**
For the period From	01-Jul-21	To	30-Jun-22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	834	-	-	834	2,136
Donations for Spire Appeal	600	-	-	600	11,777
Legacies	5,000			5,000	
Christmas Card Sales		-	-	-	
Ties and other Misc Sales	55	-	-	55	
Concert Ticket Sales	1,410	-	-	1,410	
Easter Service		-	-	-	
Miscellaneous Income incl Gift Aid	1,068	-	-	1,068	2,863
Bank Interest	3	-	-	3	7
Guild Fees		-	-	-	
Subscriptions	6,387	-	-	6,387	6,105
Sub total	15,357	-	-	15,357	22,887
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,357	-	-	15,357	22,887
A3 Payments					
Grants to Main Church	1,210	-	-	1,210	1,560
Spire Appeal Donation	13,527			13,527	
Guild Purchases		-	-	-	-
Friends Concert Payments	3,395	-	-	3,395	
Easter Service	150	-	-	150	
Sheet Music Purchases	248	-	-	248	233
Friends Service		-	-	-	
Oranges & Lemons	6,075	-	-	6,075	5,465
General Charitable Expenditure		-	-	-	
Support Costs - Trustee Expenses	832	-	-	832	
Support Costs - Printing & Stationery	247	-	-	247	29
Bank Charges	778	-	-	778	737
Sub total	26,462	-	-	26,462	8,024
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	26,462	-	-	26,462	8,024
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 11,105	-	-	- 11,105	14,863
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	80,343		-	80,343	65,481
Cash funds this year end	69,238	-	-	69,238	80,344

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Deposit Account	14,064	-	-
	Unity Trust Account	44,616		-
	Current Account	10,558	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree to bank reconciliation and payment account(s))	69,238	-	-

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Nil	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Nil		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Nil		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Nil		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		M D Heffron	01-Dec-22
		C F S Williamson	01-Dec-22

A Tribute to 551369 Flight Sergeant Arthur 'Stokey' Stokes, DFM

Stephen Stokes (& contributors)

Arthur was born to Jennie Louisa Stokes on Thursday 18 November 1920, at 182 Grove Street, Liverpool. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force on Tuesday 19 January 1937, aged 16 years and 3 months.

He was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) by His Majesty King George VI on Friday 26 September 1941. (Arthur is pictured below, second from left.)



His medal came with the words: ‘This N.C.O. has completed 40 operational flights as First Wireless Operator. He joined the Squadron on 13 September 1939, and was posted on the 14 November 1940. He has consistently displayed exceptional keenness and technical ability of the highest order. His enthusiasm

and capacity for operational work has been an inspiration and example to all other Wireless Operators. He is an invaluable asset to the squadron’.

The award of the DFM was published in The London Gazette dated 17 January 1941.

Starting with 51 Squadron, Arthur then served with ‘B’ Flight 102 Squadron at RAF Driffield (East Yorkshire) and then RAF Leeming (North Yorkshire) from 11 September 1939 until 5 November 1940. His first operational sortie was on 26 February 1940 to bomb Cologne, with Pilot McArthur in command of the aircraft.

During his service with 102 Squadron, Arthur flew with the then Pilot Officer (Leonard) Cheshire, who described him as "the best wireless operator in the Squadron" in his biography 'No Passing Glory', (pages 104 & 105).

Whilst with 102 Squadron Arthur survived the bombing of RAF Driffield on the 15 August 1940. Arthur is quoted in a book from the time stating 'At about 1:30pm, my roommate in the Sergeant's Mess looked out of the window and said, 'What are all these Blenheim’s flying about for?' (He was later given extra instruction on aircraft recognition!). Then the bombs started exploding. I left my bed in a hurry - I'd been on the Milan raid and was having a 'lie in'. Our room was on the first-floor hut but without hesitation I leapt through the window landing on the grass below. I then 'streaked' across the grass and flung myself into the shelter.' Inside the shelter he discovered he’d literally 'streaked' across the grass - he was only wearing his shirt!

One of his operations was the famous Operation Gunnerside, the dropping of saboteurs to destroy the Norsk Hydro heavy water plant (crucial for the German atomic bomb project) at Vemork in German-occupied Norway.

On completion of his time with 102 Squadron he was then presented with an opportunity to become an instructor. However, Arthur declined this offer as he wanted to remain operational. He then had the honour of joining 138 (Special Duties) Squadron, RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire.



Arthur was killed in action on Sunday 14 March 1943 when, on Operation Bronze to Czechoslovakia to drop two Czech spies into an enemy occupied country, Halifax BB281, NF-O crashed in Munich, Germany.

Arthur lies at rest with his crew in Durnbach War Cemetery, Bad Tolz, Germany (pictured left).

St Clement Danes Lodge

Chris Hill



St Clement Danes Freemasons Lodge was formed on 4 May 1871 as a Parish Lodge, by petition to the Grand Lodge of England, supported by the two Church Wardens of the Church and was to consist of up to 12 members who lived in the Parish. The link with the Church continued as in 1914 when it was proposed that Revd William Pennington, who was Rector of St Clement Danes Church be a candidate for freemasonry on 5 March 1914 becoming a Master Mason in the December, by which time he is recorded as the Chaplain of the Lodge.

Our 150th anniversary fell in 2021, but due to the prevalent Covid-19 restriction our plans were postponed until Saturday 21 May 2022. The Lodge members, their wives/partners and children (some 30+ of us) met in Room 9 Great Queens Street which was the same room number of the first meeting of the Lodge! However, the building has been rebuilt since those early days.



Our guests received a reprise of our history, which many of you will have read in earlier O&Ls, but here it is noteworthy to point out the rare nature of St Clement Danes Lodge. Not only is it one of the last parish Lodges still in existence, but the United Grand Lodge at Great Queens Street (pictured left) is in the St Clement Danes parish and as such The Lodge subscribed 10 guineas per member to the rebuilding of Great Queens Street after it was destroyed in the Great War. Subsequently it has been known as a Hall Sone Lodge.

Following the presentations in Room 9, it being a nice day, we strolled through the parish the short distance to our Church where Di Bentley regaled us with an entertaining oversight into the parish history. It stretched from its early routes and the first wooden tabernacle which was used on the site by the Danes, up to its destruction in WW2. This was followed by the public subscription to rebuild the Wren Church with the Gibb tower to become the Central Church of the RAF. The Lodge also subscribed to the rebuilding of the Church.

296 Stoke Newington Squadron

Flying Officer Avtar Singh

November saw us join in the Lord Mayor's Show. Cadets and staff were very proud to be able to march in the parade and did look out for glimpses of the Squadron after it was broadcast on national TV.



The cadets and staff were out on poppy collection duties over two weekends in November, including a collection at the Arsenal football ground together with the Royal British Legion, which raised a total of £37,035 over the two weekends.



They also carried out four Acts of Remembrance at different locations: Bermondsey, Hackney, Stoke Newington and Lavelle Street within Stoke Newington. Afterwards the cadets and parents returned to the Squadron HQ for some well-deserved tea and cakes!

Two events marked the end of year. Firstly, a memorable dinner by kind invitation of the OC of 282 RAFAC Sqn held in their wonderful hall.



The second was a cadet visit to RAF Brize Norton. A moving moment was seeing the very plane that carried the Late Queen Elizabeth II from Scotland to London. The cadets explored a Globe master plane and chatted with pilots and ground staff. We were

treated to lunch in the Sgt Mess. A very big thank you to the team at Brize Norton for hosting us.



In December we were delighted to attend and form guard of honour for the guests at the Friends' Concert at St Clement Danes. A highlight for the cadets was meeting and talking with Lady Wigston.

At our end-of-year party all the cadets brought in a dish they had cooked to share – ensuring we all ate very well!

We are also delighted to announce that one of our CI James Mack successfully passed the board for officer and was promoted to a Pilot Officer. In addition, Warrant Officer Avtar Singh has also successfully passed the board and has been promoted to Flying Officer.

In other news, our ex-cadet Louis Starr has just become a Sergeant in the RAF – congratulations!

Who are the Friends?



The Friends were founded in 1976 by John Samuel Thomas then Resident Chaplain of St Clement Danes. John served in the RAF from 1941 to 1946 and then 1951 to 1976 achieving the rank of Group Captain and Assistant Chaplain in Chief, Air Ministry.

In 1996, under Air Commodore Felicity Peake's tenure of leading the Friends, the Friends achieved its charitable status.

We are a group of individuals who share a common goal in seeking to provide an important underpinning to the work and ministry of the Central Church of the Royal Air Force. We help to bring the church to life through our activities, including an annual concert featuring the choir of St Clement Danes and The Central Band of the RAF or The Band of the RAF Regiment. We have a Friends Service annually as well as the production of two editions of our publication Oranges & Lemons.

Our mission is to encourage growth in the membership of the Friends of St Clement Danes through promotion of what St Clement Danes provides spiritually, socially and culturally.

We consider the ongoing work of St Clement Danes vital and the need to keep the church resplendent. We must build on the successes of the past, continue to support the church and the wider Friends organisation, ensuring that we remain relevant and a force for good through the 21st century. We welcome new members from all walks of life.

Application to become a Friend of St Clement Danes

Please complete and return to: The Friends of St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH

Current categories to join the Friends are:

Normal Membership by Direct Debit

Corporate Rates please contact the Membership Secretary at the church.

Serving RAF Personnel please contact your Station Representative

Membership renewals are made from 1 July each year. Part-year subscriptions may be made initially to cover an intermediate period.

Please tick the category that you are applying for:

- ☐ **I wish to join as a single member** and authorise a Direct Debit of £26pa**
- ☐ **We wish to join as joint members** and authorise a Direct Debit of £40pa**

  ** *From my/our account until further notice; I enclose a completed Direct Debit instruction (page 38)*

- ☐ I enclose a completed **Gift Aid Declaration** (overleaf)

Name and Surname:

RAF Rank (if applicable):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone: Email:

Signature: Date:

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I would like The Friends of St Clement Danes to reclaim tax paid on all donations and subscriptions I have made to this charity since 6 April 2017 and any such future payments. I realise that I can only sign this Gift Aid certificate if I have paid enough in Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount that all charities that I donate to will reclaim for each tax year. Council Tax & VAT do not count and I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

I know I can cancel this declaration at any time by advising The Friends of St Clement Danes.

Signature: Date:

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

Originator's Identification Number 9 4 2 2 6 7

Please fill in the whole form and send it to: Hon Treasurer, The Friends of St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2R 1DH

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager

Bank or Building Society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

3. Branch Sort Code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque)

4. Bank/Building Society account number

5. Reference Number *(Hon Treasurer to complete)*

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay The Friends of St Clement Danes direct debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with The Friends of St Clement Danes and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

FSCD Privacy Policy

1. The Friends of St Clement Danes will never sell or divulge your details to any other organisation.
2. We will only retain such information as we need to support the administration of the membership of the Friends and for no other purpose.
3. We may contact you by letter, email or phone including SMS unless you have told us otherwise.
4. You may change your preferences at any time by contacting the Membership Secretary by email at membership@fscd.org.uk or via the Church at: Membership Secretary, The Friends of St Clement Danes Church, St Clement Danes Church, Strand, London WC2R 1DH