

Friends of St Cross Hospital Winchester

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NEWSLETTER



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Foreword by the Chairman

RICHARD CHISNELL

It is perhaps a sign of fulfilment, or possibly maturing years, or both, that the first year of the Friends will be over when you read this issue of the Newsletter. How time flies when you're having fun!

We have implemented a varied programme of events and activities successfully during this initial year. I hope that you have found one or more of these to your satisfaction and are glad that you joined our new charity, established to support the Hospital's Trustees in preserving the Hospital of St Cross and Almshouse of Noble Poverty, reportedly the oldest almshouse in England; a unique institution that we all have a duty to maintain for future generations.

It was always our objective to build our network of Friends around a number of largely social events so that we would all have a chance to get to know one another in a convivial atmosphere. We have raised an encouraging sum of money during this first year in addition to our membership fees, and your contributions, large or small, are greatly appreciated. The challenge is to ensure that you feel committed enough to remain a Friend as we go through our first-year renewal exercise. Our fingers are firmly crossed! Our Treasurer John Pringle will enlighten you further on matters financial overleaf.

You might well read this before our final event for 2012, the Inaugural Friends' Concert, which will take place in St Cross Church on Saturday 10 November at 7.30 pm. This has the theme 'Reflect, Remember and Rejoice', falling, as it does, on the eve of Remembrance Sunday. I do hope you will come and participate, with family and friends, as we believe it will be a memorable evening. Tickets (£10 each) can be purchased from the Porter's Lodge or via the Friends' e-mail: friends@stcrosshospital.co.uk.

We also hope to meet as many Friends as are able to attend one of our two New Year Receptions, which will take place on Thursday 3 and Friday 4 January 2013 from 6.30 to 8.30 pm in the Brethren's Hall. More details will be sent to you closer to the time, but do pencil the two dates in your 2013 diaries now.

Finally, your Trustees act on your behalf, so please let us know if you have any ideas, criticisms or comments to make at any time. We will be better able to satisfy your aspirations for the Friends if we know what you are thinking. Please encourage your friends and family members to join. Here's to some more fun and fundraising success during our second year.

Thank you for your Friendship.

Foreword by the Treasurer

JOHN PRINGLE

Many thanks to all those who have efficiently renewed their memberships as this first year of the Friends finishes. It is a great help that some of you have set up Standing Orders so that your renewal will be automatic in the future. You will have noticed that we are no longer dating membership cards: the new cards you receive are valid for as long as you remain a Friend.

The work on the Brethren's Hall staircase that the Friends' grant of £9,000 made possible last year has now been completed. Next time you visit do have a look at the skilled craftsmanship of the repairs. Some of the work is visible only when the door to the Muniments Room is open at the top of the stairs. A new section of removable banister has been added most ingeniously, and makes access secure. The Muniments Room is now in regular use but needs a large oval or rectangular table to seat ten or twelve to complete its furnishing. If you know of such a table in need of a new home, the Clerk to the Trustees, Piers Armstrong, would be delighted to hear from you (01962 878218).

We are always trying to make administration of our events easier for you – and for us! We are thinking of arranging for payments for events to be made via PayPal or your mobile telephone. Would you use these facilities? We would like to hear your views.

Finally our family of Friends continues to grow – there are now over 520 of us! Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see a suggestion that you give Friends membership as a Christmas or birthday present. How wonderful for your friends and family members to get the same pleasure as you do from visiting St Cross, and to enjoy the other membership benefits of being a Friend.



Anthony Cæsar: A Personal Reflection on a Chaplain of St Cross

TOM BEAUMONT JAMES MBE

Who were the clergy who served St Cross in the past? This reminiscence illuminates the life and career of a distinguished Chaplain still flourishing today. It will, I hope, encourage other articles about people who have contributed to the running of this unique institution.

When in around 1992 I first saw the desk at which I now write, it was in the Chaplain's quarters at St Cross, then occupied by the Revd Canon Anthony Cæsar CVO MA MusB FRCO. A large Victorian piece, it bears a brass plate that reads: 'To Rev Dr. Trevaskis *from* Sophia Clayton in grateful Remembrance of a sincere Friendship. *Nov 26th 1899.*' James Trevaskis received this gift when he was vicar of St John's, 'Notting-h-h-ham' – as he enunciated that city – from



Anthony Cæsar on the cover of his *Music for Evensong* CD, recorded in 2001

which he migrated to St Luke's, Newtown, Southampton, in around 1900. Trevaskis appointed my father, the Revd J. L. Beaumont James, to his first curacy at St Luke's in 1912, informing his new curate that St Luke's was the second church in the town, a parish with a population of some 8,000 whose some 800 communicants attended for services 'modelled upon those of St Paul's Cathedral'. St Luke's was a large Victorian church where the faithful thronged to Trevaskis's 'p-p-polished cameo' sermons. In April 1912, soon after James arrived, the *Titanic* departed from Southampton on her maiden voyage. In the aftermath of the tragedy Trevaskis delegated to his curate the task of visiting the devastated parishioners whose menfolk had drowned.¹ In 1917 my father – who published a memoir of Trevaskis in 1923² – became Rector of Millbrook, Southampton, where he remained until 1941, while Trevaskis was succeeded at St Luke's in 1923 by Anthony's father, the Revd H. Douglass Cæsar. Douglass Cæsar (d. 1961) and my father were friends and contemporaries in the ministry at Southampton for many years.

Anthony was born at St Luke's Vicarage, Southampton, in 1924. Brought up in the High Anglican tradition, he was a chorister at Winchester Cathedral from 1933 to 1938 and won music scholarships to Cranleigh School and Magdalene College, Cambridge.³ Like other young men of his generation, his university career was interrupted by the war, and from 1943 to 1946 he served in the RAF in this country as a pilot after flying training in South Africa, gradually converting from the Tiger Moth via the Airspeed Oxford to the Wellington. However, Allied victory precluded service on operations. His link with flying was thereafter marked by the addition of an aircraft altimeter to the dashboard instruments in each successive car. After Cambridge, Anthony was appointed Assistant Music Master at Eton College in 1948 and subsequently became Precentor (Director of Music) at Radley College. He remained a staunch family friend during my father's final illness. In fact it was Anthony, who always had an aptitude for technology and was a keen photographer, who took the last picture of us all before my father's death in October 1952, exactly sixty years ago. Anthony later contributed the first colour photograph to our family album.

My mother Dorothy moved us to St Swithun Street, Winchester, in 1956, and taught for a time at St Faith's School. During my own schooling in Canterbury, my mother not being a driver then, Anthony acted on occasion *in loco parentis* for motorised jaunts in East Kent. In the 1960s, following training for the priesthood at St Stephen's House, Oxford, he was appointed Assistant Curate at St Mary Abbots, Kensington, and from 1965 to 1970 Chaplain to the Royal School of Church Music at Addington Palace, where the chapel in the converted orangery, flooded with sunlight, made a bright contrast to a number of gloomy parish churches. Now his long-term enthusiasm for mechanised transport manifested itself in the form of an unusual sports car, a Bond Equipe, first manufactured in 1963 and initially based (appropriately for a former pilot)



Learning to drive a tram

on a Triumph Spitfire. Anthony loved the Southampton trams (a further link with my father, who had trained as a railway engineer), a relic of which – the driver's platform, brake and power handles and staircase – survived in the garden of St Luke's Vicarage until the 1950s, although decay and necessity later reduced the ensemble to a solitary destination board!

None of this, of course, was the primary business of Anthony's life. From 1965 to 1970 he served as Assistant Secretary to the Church of England's recruiting boards for the ministry, the ACCM (Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry), and then in 1970 he returned to the Winchester diocese as Resident Priest at St Stephen's, Bournemouth, working with my cousin Colin James,⁴ then Rector of John Keble's church, St Peter's, Bournemouth, where my father had been a curate during the First World War.

The Winchester diocese was to make further calls on Anthony's life. In 1974 he was appointed Precentor and Sacrist at the Cathedral, returning to his



Greeting worshippers outside the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace, c. 1985

boyhood haunts, and successively Honorary Canon, Canon Residentiary and ultimately Canon Emeritus, from 1991. It was during this time that he was able to exercise his musical talents to the full, acting as joint editor of *The New English Hymnal* (1986), while also continuing to write church music and part-songs. He named his lovely hymn tune *Dome Alley* (NEH 364) after the short row of houses in Winchester Close in which he lived at that time and where he had attended choir practices as a boy. Other compositions of the 1970s included *Newtown St Luke* (NEH 43), which he named in fond commemoration of St Luke's, Newtown, Southampton, mentioned above.

In 1979 Anthony attracted the eye of the Royal Household and was appointed Domestic Chaplain to The Queen, Sub Dean of the Chapels Royal and (more arcanelly) Sub Almoner and Deputy Clerk of the Closet, posts he held until 1991 when he became an Extra Chaplain to The Queen. He was honoured to be the first bachelor Chaplain appointed, occupying the Sub Dean's apartment at St James's Palace beside the Queen's Chapel there, a building named after Charles I's queen, Henrietta Maria. These were tumultuous times for the royal family and he shouldered many responsibilities, ranging from advising the Sovereign to preparing a butler for confirmation. It was a challenging position.

In 1991 Anthony retired from active ministry at Court and came to St Cross as Chaplain. His duties included a share of the services and other work under the Master, Canon Colin Deedes, another former Rector of St Peter's, Bournemouth. A nine-month interregnum followed Canon Deedes's retirement in 1992, during which Anthony took charge as parish priest, including celebrating Christmas 1992, until a new Master was appointed at Easter 1993. At St Cross he had a fine apartment at the rear of the Master's Lodge in which he housed his grand piano, his Cæsar portraits and the Trevaskis desk. In 1993, approaching 70, he left St Cross for active retirement on the Isle of Wight, and as there was no room in his new home for it, the great desk came into my custody, as someone with a St Luke's connection through my father eighty years before. It is a great boon.

Appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians in 2007 (an ecumenical organisation alternately presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury and of Westminster), Anthony today flourishes at Prestbury, Gloucestershire, his piano gracing the dining room of Capel Court.

1 His ministry is described in Mary South's recent *Titanic Threads*, Hamamelis Books, Eastleigh, 2012.

2 James Lyne Beaumont James, *James Trevaskis: A Study in Personality*, H. M. Gilbert & Sons, Southampton, 1923.

3 At Cambridge, the young Cæsar followed in the footsteps of my father and his younger brother Clement James, who had both studied at Magdalene before the First World War, prior to entering the priesthood.

4 Colin was my uncle the Revd Clement James's younger son. A Kingsman and a Cambridge acquaintance of Anthony's, he had worked for the BBC's Religious Broadcasting Department before becoming Rector of St Peter's. He subsequently became successively Bishop of Basingstoke, Bishop of Wakefield and Bishop of Winchester. Colin retired to Back Street, St Cross, where he died in December 2009.

Catherine Secker: The First Female Porter of St Cross

HARRIET SAWBRIDGE

While working as the verger for the Army Chaplains' Branch at Tidworth Garrison, Catherine came across an advertisement for the job of Porter at St Cross. Because the text stated that the role might be suitable for an NCO, Catherine instinctively felt that it would only be open to men. Her Padre, the Revd William Lister, thought otherwise and suggested that she ring Mrs Phillips, Secretary to the Hospital, to express an interest. After an encouraging response, Catherine visited St Cross to help her decide whether or not to apply. Having made it clear during this visit that she felt the role was really only open to men, Catherine subsequently attended her interview with Mrs Phillips, the Master and Graham Phillips in a relaxed state, fairly sure that her outspokenness at the earlier meeting would already have ruled her out. By the time she was home, she had been offered the job. Within a week she and her husband Chris had decided to accept the drop in salary, sell their house and move to St Cross.

Catherine was born and brought up in Salisbury. She married Chris, who was then serving in what is now the Prince of Wales's Regiment, saw the world and



Catherine hands the Wayfarer's Dole to Fran, daughter of the former Master, Michael Harley, on her wedding day

ended up at Tidworth, a few miles from where she was born. Their move to St Cross came at a time when Chris had retired from the army and their daughters, Christina and Kay, had left home. After 22 years of moving from base to base, Chris was more than happy for Catherine to take the lead in where they should live. The Seckers arrived at St Cross on 1 May 2000, at a time when the Revd Tony Outhwaite was Master and the Revd Reg Sweet was Chaplain. It wasn't long before they discovered that they had narrowly missed meeting Reg in Gibraltar, when Chris left shortly before Reg arrived there in the mid-1980s.

Until the mid-nineteenth century, portering duties were carried out by a Brother and his wife, he tending the grounds while she saw to the Wayfarer's Dole. In 1857 the constitution was changed to create the role of Porter and Constable of the Hospital, the first incumbent being Henry Prior. Catherine became the eighteenth Porter of St Cross. The post she took on was a traditional one, working six days a week and involving the opening up and locking of the Hospital, moving furniture when required, being responsible for the rubbish bins, changing light bulbs, cleaning lavatories, handing out the Wayfarer's Dole and assisting with tours of the Hospital, among other duties. When Catherine first arrived, the Matron (now known as the Warden) of the Hospital, lived on the premises, and on her days off Catherine was responsible for attending to the Brothers' needs. Although a Relief Warden and a Relief Porter now enable Catherine to have two days off each week, she misses the contact with the Brothers she enjoyed in those early days.

The accommodation offered to her had been the Porter's Lodge since 1857. The space that is now the gift shop was divided in two, half as the office, which also sold a limited selection of trinkets, and half as the Porter's kitchen. The present office space behind the gift shop was the Porter's sitting room, with upstairs a bathroom and a bedroom. Shortly after Catherine's arrival, the Trustees' Visitors' Committee expressed an interest in creating a gift shop. Initially the mower shed next to the Hundred Men's Hall was mooted, but the committee finally settled on the current location. In 2003 Catherine and Chris moved temporarily to one of the Hospital's cottages on St Cross Road so that their living accommodation could be refurbished as part of the works to make room for the larger gift shop and office. Their new flat is more private with its own entrance, and suits them well.

In more recent times, Catherine's job has grown to include assisting with the many events and weddings now held at the Hospital, as well as sourcing the merchandise for the very successful gift shop and helping with the tea rooms and with the increased number of visitors to the Hospital.

Living on the premises means that Catherine is never really off duty. She says she likes to think of St Cross as her home, the Brothers as her children, and the gift shop as somewhere she works for a small income. Being Porter of St Cross is, she says, 'the best job I've ever had'.



BROTHERS' NEWS

This year has seen two new Brothers gowned. **Brother Ian Hardman**, originally from the northwest of England, came to St Cross after thirty years in Edinburgh. He worked for the NHS both north and south of the border. Ian was gowned in April and is involved with the Winchester Street Pastors. As a missionary to the south he is enjoying exploring the county and beyond! **Brother Martin Dyson**, gowned in July, was born and bred in Wakefield, before National Service in the Royal Artillery. Four years at Keble College, Oxford, gave him a degree, a diploma in education and a cricket blue. A career in teaching began at St Paul's School, then in West Kensington, and continued at Eton, where there was fulfilment, excitement and always plenty going on – a memorable and rewarding experience. In later years Martin spent time at Ludgrove, teaching younger boys, and in Bournemouth teaching English to foreign students already established in business. Retirement took him to Swanage and now, happily, to St Cross.



Brother Bob Munday RIP

The Master writes: It is, of course, the nature of the Hospital that Brothers pass on. Sadly this last month we lost Brother 'Bob' Munday. Bob came here twelve years ago and has been very much part of the community. He was punctilious in the observation of his duties as a Brother and always attended Brothers' Matins unless prevented by illness or absence from the Hospital – an example to all. His funeral was extremely well attended with many old friends supporting the family. As is the tradition here, the Brothers left the church in procession behind the hearse, pausing close to his flat, to form up in a farewell at the outer gate. He will be greatly missed.



It has been a busy few months, with a visit to Admiralty House and HMS Victory, by kind invitation of the Second Sea Lord, Sir Charles Montgomery and Lady Montgomery. The Master and Brothers celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a special tea in the Hundred Men's Hall. Under the expert eye of Brother Ray Aldington we took part in the Olympic Bells to welcome in the London 2012 Olympic Games, and received a certificate for our efforts. And some of us went to Buckingham Palace to see the Queen's diamonds!



Brother Ray Aldington RIP

It is with great sadness that we announce that Brother Ray Aldington died suddenly as we were going to press

May he rest in peace



THE FIRST YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE FRIENDS

Dr John Crook FSA gave the First **Annual Friends' Lecture**.

The **Friends' AGM** was chaired by Mrs Victoria Wakefield DL. A talk by Dick Selwood of WARG was followed by tea on the Bowling Green and Choral Evensong.

The **Friends' outing** to Christchurch included a tour of the Priory, lunch and a river trip.





The **Friends' Celebration Day** on Sunday 15 July 2012 comprised a morning service in St Cross Church, strewing in the water meadows, a picnic lunch, a celebration cake, a sports afternoon and some national music to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen and the London 2012 Olympic Games.



Forthcoming Events for Friends

Inaugural Friends' Concert

Saturday 10 November 2012, 7.30–9.30 pm
St Cross Church

WARG Seminar: 'Henry's Hospital'

Saturday 8 December 2012, 1–4 pm
St Cross Church followed by tea in the Hundred Men's Hall

Friends' New Year Receptions

Thursday 3 and Friday 4 January 2013, 6.30–8.30 pm
Brethren's Hall

Friends' Lecture: 'The Evolution of Almshouses, with particular reference to St Cross and Ewelme'

Steve Taylor
Friday 15 March 2013, 7.30–9 pm

Outing to Dorchester Abbey and Ewelme Almshouse, Oxfordshire

Wednesday 17 April 2013, 9.30 am – 5.30 pm

Second Annual Friends' Day

Saturday 18 May 2013, 2–5 pm
AGM and talk by Professor Tom Beaumont James MBE,
followed by tea and evensong

Outing to Stratford-upon-Avon: 'The Sweet Connection'

Wednesday 19 June 2013, 8.30 am – 7.30 pm

Friends' Summer Reception

Friday 5 July 2013
Master's Garden

Friends' Concert

Saturday 12 October 2013, 7.30–9.30 pm
St Cross Church



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Give Membership of the Friends of St Cross Hospital

Why not give membership of the Friends of St Cross Hospital to family members, friends or colleagues for Christmas? For just £25 (individual) or £35 (joint/family), Friends enjoy free access to the Hospital's public buildings and gardens, a regular newsletter, special Friends' events, an annual Friends' Day with a variety of activities, and discounts at the gift shop on special occasions. For further information please send an e-mail to friends@stcrosshospital.co.uk or visit our website www.friendsofstcross.com



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Friends of St Cross Hospital
Winchester

Celebrate its Past – Support its Future

INAUGURAL FRIENDS' CONCERT

A varied programme of music
and poetry readings on the theme
Reflect, Remember and Rejoice

St Cross Church
Saturday 10 November, 7.30 pm

Tickets, £10 to include a glass of wine,
available from the Porter's Lodge
or friends@stcrosshospital.co.uk

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