

# Friends of St Cross Hospital Winchester

Registered charity number 1143173

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NEWSLETTER



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# Foreword by the Chairman

**RICHARD CHISNELL**

By the time you read this the Friends of St Cross will be well into its fifth year since the launch of the charity in September 2011. The generosity of our membership, now numbering almost 700, has enabled us to hand over £48,500 to the Hospital's Trustees. At the time of writing the Friends' Board has yet to decide on the level of grant for the Hospital this year, but I anticipate a similar sum to the 2015 grant. The decision will be announced at our AGM on 7 May, which should take the total sum given to the Hospital since our foundation to well over £60,000. This is praiseworthy indeed, and, on behalf of all of us involved in managing the Friends, I thank you for your continued support.

Our income comes from membership subscriptions, donations and, increasingly, from the programme of events and fundraising activities we undertake each year. We also have a legacy scheme and hope that, as time passes, income from this source will grow, as those with special memories remember St Cross in their wills.

We have established a varied pattern of annual events, among them our New Year Reception, our Friends' Lecture and our Friends' Concert, together with the very popular Summer Party, our spring, summer and autumn coach outings and our Winter Lunches. This year we added a very successful Ceilidh in January in St Faith's Parish Hall, and I hope this will be a feature of our calendar in future years. Those of you who are able to attend our events held at St Cross will know how fortunate we are to have such an idyllic setting, with the wonderful backdrop of the water meadows and St Catherine's Hill. We keep our fingers crossed so that the beauty of the Master's Garden or the Brothers' Bowling Green is enhanced through fine weather!



Monies donated to the Hospital by the Friends go towards a range of projects identified by the Hospital's Trustees. So far these have included contributions to the rebuilding of two historic Brothers' sheds for garden storage; restoration work to the Brethren's Hall staircase, allowing safe access to the Tower Room above; provision of a security alarm for the valuable painted triptych in the Lady Chapel; a contribution to the restoration of the painted ceiling under the church tower; provision of fifty new stacking chairs for use in the church and other Hospital spaces; a new events noticeboard at the back of the Bowling Green to inform passing visitors of forthcoming events at the Hospital; refurbishment of kneelers and new cushions for the Red Brothers' stalls in the church; provision of a permanent water and electricity supply to the Brothers' Bowling Green, to assist with outside events and weddings; support for repairs to the main Hospital gates; a major contribution towards the provision of new visitor toilets and an office space above for Friends and others (scheduled for 2016); and the installation of a new kissing gate, fully accessible to wheelchairs and pushchairs, at the entrance to the water meadows at the bottom of the Gravels. All this in just four years of existence! So, a big pat on the back for all concerned and let's continue this good work.

Our key challenge now is to continue to attract new Friends and, just as importantly, to retain the loyal members we already have. We all face pressures relating to our various memberships, and the Friends of St Cross Hospital must compete with many other notable and local causes. But our charity is special and almost unique in Britain, and we must ensure our proud links with past centuries survive in future years.

Finally, I commend to all our members the hard work undertaken by our Treasurer, John Pringle, ably supported by our Events and Membership Administrator, Fiona Whitehouse. John and Fiona shoulder the lion's share of the management of the Friends. Our three operating Committees – Marketing and Events, Finance and Administration, and Nominations – also meet quarterly and report to the Friends' Board of Trustees. We are extremely lucky to have Robert Parsons join us as a Trustee of the Friends. Robert has taken over as Chair of the Marketing and Events Committee, which after five years I feel I should hand on. Robert has a sound understanding of marketing and brings great enthusiasm and energy. He will be a huge asset to the team.

We hope you will find our new website simpler to use. It certainly focuses on who we are and what we do and how you can get involved. Do remember that although we encourage you to communicate with us electronically or book events online, if you wish to talk to me directly or have any ideas for new events, you can always telephone (01962 864138) or e-mail (richard@chisnell.co.uk). Thank you for your friendship.

# Archaeological Discoveries in St Cross Church

DR JOHN CROOK

No-one should feel cold at Christmas time, and the builders who for several months had been working on the heating system of St Cross Church gave the Brothers and Sunday congregation a very special Christmas present in 2015: a warm church. Since the 1950s the building had been rather inadequately heated by means of hot air blown into the north transept through a former twelfth-century window, and a few conventional radiators and electric heaters. The church seemed perpetually to smell of gas.

Installing central heating in a medieval building requires careful planning, and my role was to ensure that damage to the historic fabric or to below-ground archaeology was kept to a minimum. Indeed, designing the new system began as long ago as 2011 when the architect Louise Bainbridge and I investigated the nave floor.

Casual visitors might well imagine that the fine medieval tiles of the side aisles and parts of the west end of the nave have been there since they were laid in the 1390s, although it is immediately obvious that those of the central aisle are modern replicas. In fact all the old tiles in the nave were re-laid as a 'suspended floor' during the major restoration undertaken by the architect William Butterfield in the 1860s. Previously the church had often been so damp and cold underfoot that the Brothers had had to be excused attendance at services. To remedy this, Butterfield took up all the medieval tiles, salvaging intact examples for re-use. He then excavated the nave throughout to a depth of eighteen inches or so, and had brick and stone sleeper walls built to support large stone slabs on which the medieval tiles were laid. The diagonally set memorial slabs commemorating deceased Brothers were re-laid down the centre of the aisles at regular intervals (previously the distribution was probably more random). In the central aisle, however, Butterfield laid copies



View north under the north aisle of the nave, showing the underside of stone slabs supported on brick and stone sleeper walls. The slabs form the substrate of the 'medieval' tiled pavement above

of the medieval patterned tiles, which he commissioned especially from the famous Minton tiling. To guard further against chilly feet, the new wooden pews were set on boarded pew platforms, whose joists were also supported on brick sleeper walls.

It therefore soon became evident that central-heating pipes could be routed in the void beneath the nave floor without any disturbance to historic fabric; and that if there were burials in the nave (as seemed highly likely) these too could remain undisturbed. However, in the transepts, crossing and choir, Butterfield had adopted the simpler strategy of using sub-floor voids only beneath the pew platforms on either side. In the crossing and choir the medieval tiles were again replaced with replicas of the old designs, and these included the famous 'ZO' tiles, commemorating an anonymous benefactor who signed his letters with that cryptic monogram. It is thought that he was Edward, Prince of Wales, who paid a formal visit to St Cross in December 1862, on his way 'to Osborne' (*zu Osborne*). The transepts, on the other hand, were paved in larger, plain red tiles of post-medieval date, and it was not initially clear whether they had been disturbed by Butterfield. Routing the new hot-water pipes through the north transept, from the boiler in the ambulatory to the body of the church, required the formation of a duct below the pavement, resulting in a need for preliminary archaeological investigations.

Thus, in November 2014, I dug three evaluation trenches, two in the north transept. It soon became apparent that the north transept's floor had also been re-laid in the nineteenth century, and there were indications that the raised floor area which occupies much of the space, up two steps, was an insertion of that date. This simplified matters, as the heating duct could be contained within modern build-up. The original, lower level nearer the crossing was more sensitive. The evaluation showed that the ledger stones in this area did not correspond with actual graves, but two intersecting grave cuts were found, suggesting that burials survived at deeper level: avoiding damage to these would require careful mitigation at the construction stage.

The heating works took place in two phases. Those in the ambulatory and north transept started in August 2015 and these areas were simply partitioned off so that the church could remain in use. The trench was carefully dug by the contractors while I maintained the watching brief that was a planning condition for the works. The excavation revealed how the late twelfth-century parts of the church had originally been laid out, with massive sleeper walls founded deep in the natural dark clays and gravels of the Itchen valley. These walls, concealed below the pavement, continued the line of the outer walls of the church, and those of the main arcades, stitching everything together. Also discovered were three grave cuts, and a feature that might possibly have been an altar step along the eastern side of the north transept, although the limited area of the excavation meant that the final interpretation of this feature will be



Elevation view looking south east, showing (left) the Greensand footings of the 1398 rear wall of the ambulatory abutting (right) the exterior face of the north wall of the north transept

something for future archaeologists to work out. Further evidence was discovered for the way Butterfield raised the floor level of the body of the transept, and a few fragments of medieval tile were found at the original pavement level.

Breaking through the north wall of the transept, below the sill of the fifteenth-century doorway there, provided a good view of the original external wall face, abutted by a wall built by Master John de Campeden in 1398 to separate his domain (the present Quadrangle and Outer Court) from the Brothers' quarters, which until the late fifteenth century were located in the area of the Bowling Green. This wall eventually formed the rear wall of the ambulatory. The new boiler was to be located on the first floor of the ambulatory, thus freeing up the south end of the ambulatory and providing an alternative access doorway to the church.

All these observations were fairly routine; more exciting was the discovery of at least three brick burial vaults when Butterfield's decaying timber floors were removed from the Morning Chapel. One of these was investigated by the removal of a brick from the crown and the insertion of a camera. The remains of a single coffin of eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century date could be seen (*overleaf*). The timber had completely rotted away but vestiges of what was probably a leather outer covering, secured by round-headed tacks, were visible, as well as some very corroded fragments of the usual lead envelope within the coffin. The bones were much disturbed as a result of the collapse of the coffin.

Frustratingly, the grave, and indeed the others identified in the Morning Chapel, were completely unmarked, leaving us no way to determine who might have been buried in them, although interment within the Morning Chapel would have been appropriate for someone of the status of a Master of St Cross or his wife.

Thanks to careful preliminary planning the rest of the heating works ran smoothly and there were, fortunately, no archaeological 'show-stoppers'. The final archaeological report is a new addition to the historical jigsaw that is the story of the development of the Hospital of St Cross.



Interior of Grave I, looking west

# The Hundred Men's Hall Café

HARRIET SAWBRIDGE

The current Hundred Men's Hall was built by Cardinal Beaufort in the fifteenth century and was used for issuing provisions to one hundred poor local men. Today, that tradition of hospitality continues in the form of a much-loved café, which ensures that seven days a week, between the months of April and October, visitors to St Cross Hospital feel welcome and refreshed, whether they are visiting the church, touring the Hospital or simply stopping for tea on the South Downs Way.

The café was opened by the then Master, Anthony Outhwaite, in the 1990s, following a project grant made in 1995 by Hampshire County Council to improve visitor facilities. Initially the Master's wife, Christine, ran the café. For the past ten years, the café has been masterminded by Doreen Jenkins, with help from Brothers Clive and Andrew and a team of twenty energetic volunteers. During this time profits have risen from *c.* £2,000 per annum to a sizeable £26,000. Doreen has now decided to take a step back and has



Visitors enjoying soup for lunch in the Hundred Men's Hall

entrusted the day-to-day running of the café to Nancy Norton, who has been a volunteer for many years, while Doreen will continue to handle the accounting and buying.

Over the years, Doreen has seen visitor numbers at St Cross grow. There are now more walkers dropping in from the Clarendon Way and the South Downs Way; in the summer term families from St Faith's School congregate to eat ice creams after school; and there are regulars who come in on specific days hoping for particular cakes or to see volunteers. Many Friends of St Cross are also an important part of the café community. Visitors enjoy chatting with the Master, Reg, a frequent visitor and proponent of the cakes (particularly the lemon drizzle!). Brother Andrew and Brother Clive, among others, are a huge support and many Brothers tend to congregate in the café when they are there. The senior Brother, John Hodges, is also a regular and enjoys welcoming visitors to the Hospital.

With the increase in visitor numbers, a greater variety of refreshments is needed. Three 'cake ladies' – Jane Hitchman, Anne Skipp and Abi White – provide a delicious assortment of fresh cakes and gluten-free goodies. Health and Safety regulations decree that cakes can only be sold if they have been made by holders of Food Safety and Hygiene Certificates; holders must be registered with the local authority and have their kitchens regularly inspected. Brother Andrew has for the last few years made the hugely popular scones in the Brothers' kitchen. He has now moved, but has generously agreed to continue to cater for events at the Hospital.



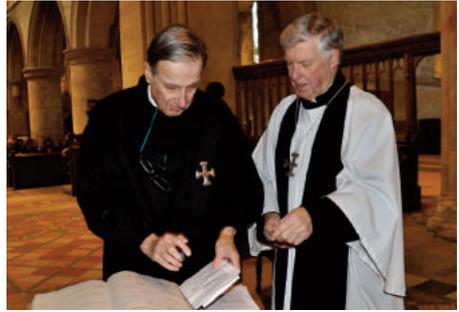
Doreen Jenkins, mastermind of the Hundred Men's Hall Café



Some of the delights on offer in the Hundred Men's Hall

Not only have visitor numbers increased over the past decade, so has the number of special events at St Cross. The Hospital now takes part in the annual National Gardens Scheme open day, for which the café provides a cream tea. There are the Hospital's own events, such as the Michaelmas Fair, and the Friends' Winter Lunches, and the café also provides wine bars for concerts held in the church, including those held during the Winchester Festival, as well as regular NADFAS, U3A and Historical Society lunches. Every year La Serenissima come to record a CD in the church over three days, and the café provides lunches for those involved. All these events are catered for by Doreen and Brother Andrew, always with the support of Doreen's husband Cled.

A donation from the proceeds of the café is given to the Parish of St Faith each year in recognition of its role in supporting the café. There has been a recent recruitment drive for helpers in the café, and as a result new volunteers have joined from as far afield as Southampton and Chandler's Ford. They enjoy the sense of community that pervades the Hospital, as well as meeting a wide variety of visitors. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Nancy Norton via the Porter's Lodge.



**BROTHERS' NEWS**

Two more Brothers 'John' have joined the Brethren and were recently gowned by the Master.

Brother John Featherstone (*above left*), gowned in June, is a Fenman, educated at Wisbech Grammar School, the RAF College Cranwell and, latterly, Christ Church Canterbury University (Theology) and the University of Kent (Terrorism). After forty years in the RAF, followed by fifteen in public, security and charity-sector consultancy, at home and overseas, John considers himself of 'No fixed abode': his move to St Cross was his 34th house move! He hopes to return to theology to continue research (good luck with that one, John!). Meanwhile, he sees St Cross as 'the ideal environment in which to pray, think, study and write, in the warm friendship of a unique brotherhood and a vibrant church community'. John is a wet-bob – rowing and offshore sailing – and is a Life Vice-President of the RAF Rowing Club and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Brother John Green (*above right*), gowned in December, was born in Bath. The son of a naval officer, he spent his early life in Scotland. He was educated at Craigflower School, Fife, Wellington College, Berkshire, and Phillips Academy in Massachusetts. His working career in the business world began at Lloyds, and spans property development in the UK and Hawaii, business management, corporate development, mining and processing precious metals, and management consultancy. In retirement he enjoys books and is an amateur bookbinder. Among the current brethren he becomes the ninth Brother John!

Outings this year took the Brothers to the beautiful gardens of Bentworth House (*below left*), followed by tea in the summer house (*below right*). They also visited Goodwood House (*opposite, top left and right*), home of the Earl and Countess of March, near Chichester, where they were given a tour by Mrs Rosemary Andreae, a Trustee of St Cross and a former Curator of Goodwood House, before a lavish cream tea was served in the Ballroom.





They were kindly invited by the 815th Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Eileen Berry, to tea at Abbey House (*right*).

A visit to the Royal Marines Museum, Portsmouth (*below*), was masterminded by Mr Bob Christy, Chairman of the Royal Marines Association Club. Lunch with members of the Association at their club was concluded with presentation of a plaque to be placed in the Brothers' Common Room.





The community at St Cross and the Parish of St Faith recently marked the Master's eightieth birthday with cake (and of course his favourite tippel!) (*above right, right*). One of his naval friends made a kneeler for the church (*above*), reflecting his many years of ministry.





## FRIENDS' EVENTS 2015

*Top left:* the Friends' Lecture was given by the Dean of Winchester, James Atwell, who gave us an inspiring introduction to pilgrimages.

*Top right, above left:* our Annual Friends' Day included a talk by Cllr Barry Lipscomb entitled 'St Cross to Beachy Head: The National Park on Our Doorstep'. *Above right, right:* the Friends enjoyed visits to Corsham Almshouses and Lacock Abbey, and *(bottom left and right)* to Blenheim and Sherborne.





*Top left and right, above left:* the annual Friends' Summer Party took place in the Master's Garden and the Bowling Green on a beautiful summer's evening, with drinks in the Master's Garden, picnics brought by those attending, and dancing. *Above right, right, below left and right:* under the direction of Derek Beck, the annual Friends' Concert, held this year at St Faith's Parish Hall, continued to display the wealth of talent that exists among our many Friends.



## New Friends since 1 January 2015

Brother Brian Astell  
Isabella Barton  
Ray and Josephine Bradley  
David Buttle  
W J Cooper Bailey  
Gillian Davies  
Christopher and Fiona Elger  
Charlotte Fenn  
Victoria Fisher  
Tim and Gill Foster  
James Francis  
Sue French  
Fred and Helen Gault  
Anne Gibson  
Jim and Susan Glasspool  
Dermot and Ann Glynn  
Peter and Gillian Graper  
John Hart  
Sally Heather  
Anita Hulme  
Bob and Pamela Jones  
Pradip Joshi  
Alex Keane  
Paul and Paula Kennedy  
Charlotte Lewis  
Richard and Susan Lindley  
Stuart and Christina Mathews  
Michael and Natasha Newman  
Richard and Gillian Parker  
Robert and Tricia Parsons  
Robert and Louise Pears  
Mike Pratt  
Johnny Pringle and Mariana Mazzoli  
Alex and Gill Roberts  
James and Nicci Rosengarten  
Paul and Siannin Seftel

Dick Selwood  
Chris and Jessica Shaw  
Jennifer Shipway  
Colin and Moninna Simpson  
Alan and Diana Smith  
Rex Speller  
Hazel Spencer  
Sylvia Turner  
Katherine Wake  
Sylvia Warne  
Tom Whitburn

# Acknowledgements

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Registered charity number 1143173

You are invited to the  
**2016 FRIENDS' SUMMER PARTY**

in support of the Hospital of St Cross  
on Friday 10 June from 6.30 to 10.30 pm  
in the Master's Garden and on the Bowling Green

Sparkling reception with canapés  
Enjoy your own picnic in marquees  
'Atlantico' Cumbia/Salsa Band

Friends' Bar at reasonable prices  
Grand Raffle with fabulous prizes  
Dancing led by Nicholas Inchelin

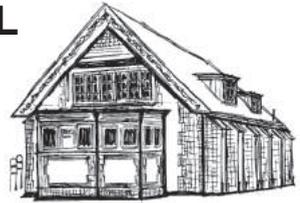
Tickets £20 per person for Friends, £25 for others  
To book visit [www.friendsofstcross.com](http://www.friendsofstcross.com) or the Porter's Lodge  
For information contact Pip Billington: 01962 855587, [pahb@wincoll.ac.uk](mailto:pahb@wincoll.ac.uk)



## **ST FAITH'S PARISH HALL**

Back Street, St Cross, Winchester SO23 9SB

*Registered charity no. 1130671*



Recently refurbished and full of light, this handsome Edwardian building, given by a former Master of St Cross to the parishioners of St Faith, contains two spacious halls.

Offering ample parking, St Faith's Parish Hall is the ideal local venue for children's parties, lectures, meetings and receptions.

To book please contact Sara Arnold, Bookings Secretary: 07850 231497, [stfaithsph@secretgenius.co.uk](mailto:stfaithsph@secretgenius.co.uk)

# Supporting our Winchester Heritage



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