

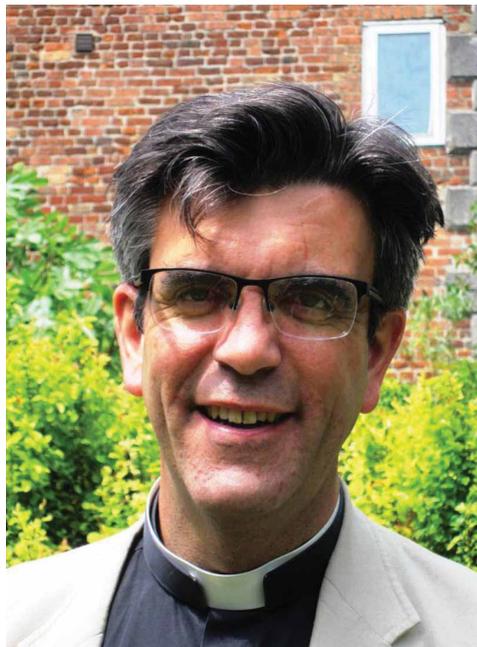


CHRISTMAS 2020

The Salisbury Cathedral Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - about which I wrote this time last year, and which many Friends were due to join - was an early casualty of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is just another item on the long list of plans and projects which have had to be cancelled, postponed, or reshaped this year. Our great liturgies for Holy Week and Easter; the celebratory events planned for our 800th anniversary; the Southern Cathedrals Festival... the list goes on and on.

As I write, it is more than six months since the country was ordered into lockdown. It is frustrating - in fact it is downright heart-breaking - that we are all still having to live with a huge amount of isolation, strangeness and uncertainty. While the virus remains elusive and dangerous, almost any thinking ahead must necessarily be provisional, while making definite plans is hazardous.

However, there is one bit of crystal ball-gazing that I am prepared to do. In fact, it is utterly vital if a myth that is circulating is going to be well and truly busted. It is the myth that Christmas is at risk of being cancelled.



This is what some are suggesting: that a lethal combination of local lockdowns, the national 'rule of six', and the continued ban on congregational singing could somehow accomplish what even an unholy alliance of the Grinch with Ebenezer Scrooge could not. But you read it here first: Christmas 2020 has not been cancelled. Christmas 2020 will happen.

It will have distinctive hallmarks. Our gift-giving will look different. This has been a year in which we've

all had to think hard about the things that really matter and the things we really need. Our family gatherings will be different. The requirement that we configure ourselves in new ways may mean that we share a festive table with people with whom we have not shared a table before. Our worship will certainly be different. It is unlikely that you and I will join in the chorus of 'O come, all ye faithful' and even in a building as spacious as Salisbury Cathedral, far fewer people will be able to worship in person than would normally be the case. But the new live-streaming equipment, so generously purchased for us by the Friends, means that

From the Chairman

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter as this strange and difficult year draws to a close. At the time of writing - mid-October - it feels that we still have a long way to go to Christmas, as the world wrestles with increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths, and the 'second spike' descends upon us. We hope and pray that the wonderful work and achievements of our scientists, doctors, nurses and all key workers will prevail and overcome this dreadful pandemic, and that an end is in sight by the close of this year.

My introduction in *Spire* covered the first half of 2020. This saw our

many more will be able to participate than could ever fit into the building.

Friends, how could Christmas not happen? In the Bethlehem stable, in the willing "yes" of Mary, and in the birth of the Christ child Heaven is joined to Earth. Joined for all eternity, joined in a union that neither political authorities nor lethal viruses have the power to break, joined in the deathless love of God for everything he has made. Cancel Christmas? Impossible. Christmas is a joyful participation in a deal that has already been done. We have only to turn up.

Nick Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury

secretary, Julia Lever and assistant secretary Rosie Wilkinson working one at a time, once it was safe and permitted to return to the Friends' office, ensuring that we continued



Friends' chairman Duncan Glass, speaking at the virtual AGM.



Canon Treasurer Robert Titley invites us to "realise that we are called to be friends of God".

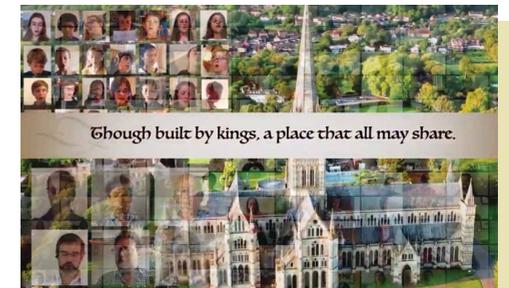
to deal with the day-to-day operation of our charity. Our editor, Katharine Shearing worked hard to produce this year's bumper edition of *Spire*, recording our 90th year. Many thanks to members who returned the voting slip, thus allowing us to conduct the AGM without the risk of convening the meeting or postponing it to an unknown date.

Speeches by our president, Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos, Canon Treasurer Robert Titley and me (*please see separate article with the link to the video*) have been posted on the Friends' website to conclude the AGM, report on voting and elections, and share with you the wonderful Salisbury Anthem, specially commissioned to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the cathedral's foundation stones being laid in 1220. We hope you enjoy

listening and seeing the considerable number of singers involved!

The closure of the cathedral has had a huge impact. The loss of visitor income is likely to be about £2 million. There have been few new members joining our charity and sadly we have lost a number of Friends. These issues have caused major changes to be made. As you know, the cathedral launched a recovery appeal and a letter from the Dean and me was included in *Spire*. Your response has resulted in the Friends receiving more than £35,000 so far, boosting the cathedral appeal to nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

From the 1st September visitors will be charged £8 to enter the cathedral, ending many years of recommended donation. This will not apply to the congregation, volunteers, local residents or members of the Friends. Simply show your membership card and you will be made welcome by the wonderful staff.



A still from the recording of the Salisbury Anthem.

The passage of time, annual inflation and the impact of Covid-19 on membership numbers and subscription income have led the Friends' Council to introduce the first increase in our membership charge for ten years. From the 1st January 2021 members are asked to pay £25 for single and £40 for joint membership. We hope this is acceptable and assure you that subscriptions will continue to be directed exclusively to grants for projects in accordance with our constitution:

To support the Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral in maintaining, preserving, improving and enhancing the fabric, fittings, ornaments and monuments of the cathedral; and supporting the life, worship and ministry of the cathedral.

May we ask you to introduce new members, in order to restore our former numbers and improve subscription income? Alternatively, give membership as a gift to a loved one. It's nearly Christmas!

Christmas cards

Thank you to all those who have purchased Friends' Christmas cards this year.

Orders began to be received at the office soon after *Spire* was sent to members and dozens of packs have been collected from the office or posted, thanks to the hard work of volunteer Sue Ash.

Please collect your order from the office if you haven't yet done so.

More cards are available if you have run out!

We hope the New Year sees an improvement in controlling and even ending the pandemic and allows the Friends to spring into action with the events we have planned for 2021 when safe to do so. Our Easter newsletter and website www.salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk will provide more information.

Following our AGM and elections, we welcome two new trustees, Joanna Higgs and Derek Brown who joined the council in November and bring experience and skills that will strengthen our team for the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement in all we strive to achieve. The difficulties experienced this year will be overcome and our resolve to preserve and improve our medieval masterpiece will be stronger and better than ever. On behalf of our trustees, staff and volunteers, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Duncan Glass, Chairman

Cathedral entrance charge and Friends' membership subscriptions

As our chairman has said in his report, the lockdown imposed at the end of March, with restrictions lifted only in June and July, has led to the cathedral suffering a huge loss of income - estimated at £2 million for the year.

With the number of visitors during the summer a fraction of those who would normally come, the loss was inevitable.

Daily running costs are about £14,000. The Cathedral Recovery Appeal was launched in the summer and thanks to generous groups and individuals, including the Friends, donations have poured in.

However, to boost the recovery, Chapter decided that from 1st September visitors would be charged £8 for entry to the cathedral.

Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos explained that the economic reality of the pandemic meant the donations system, which had operated successfully for many years, was no longer adequate. Those attending worship or wishing to pray will not pay and other groups are exempt: cathedral staff and volunteers, members of the congregation, Salisbury residents, Salisbury Diocesan parishioners, and the under-13s.

There is a student rate of £5 for 13-18-year-olds.

The ticket purchased by visitors will be valid for 12 months for return visits.

Friends will continue to enjoy free entry, on production of their valid membership card.

After ten years without increase we have realised that membership subscription rates need updating to keep up with rising costs.

In these difficult times we regret having to increase our membership rates, but trust that members will understand and respond generously. The cathedral needs the help of the Friends now more than ever.

Each year we give grants to a wide range of projects, from the toilet



Salisbury Cathedral has introduced an entry fee to boost the recovery effort.

facilities in Little Paradise to the conservation of stained glass windows, from restoration of the Father Willis organ to the purchase of live-streaming equipment to enable services to be accessed online (*see separate article on grants*).

Our grants are only possible through the subscriptions, donations and legacies of members.

Membership subscription rates will therefore be increasing: single members from £20 to £25 and joint members from £30 to £40.

The increases will take effect from

1st January 2021 and we ask that if **you pay your subscription by standing order, you contact your bank to make the necessary adjustment or you can change to direct debit.**

If you already pay by direct debit we will be able to make the changes for you.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

New annual membership subscription rates from 1st January 2021:

Single - £25

Joint - £40

Direct debit

Thank you to members who have signed up to pay their annual subscription by direct debit.

Since we launched the system in early 2019, more than 500 of you have completed a direct debit instruction (DDI), but we'd like more of you to follow suit!

Switching to direct debit keeps costs down by reducing the number of cheques that have to be processed each year.

And it means that you don't have to change your standing order

mandate, if you pay by this method, when subscriptions rise.

Please help us by completing a DDI, which is available from the Friends' office.

We will send you email confirmation before any payment is taken.

Once you have completed and returned the DDI to the office, please cancel your standing order if you are currently paying by this method.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your co-operation.

Salisbury Cathedral Recovery Appeal

An enormous thank you to you, our loyal and generous members who have donated in response to the letter we enclosed with *Spire* asking you to support the cathedral's recovery appeal.

At the time of going to press you have given more than £35,000 (including Gift Aid), a magnificent amount in these difficult times.

The cathedral will need the help of the Friends more than ever in the coming months if it is to plug the estimated £2 million gap in its funding.

The Friends will be ready to offer vital grants, thanks to your unstinting loyalty.

Your continued Friendship and invaluable support of our cathedral mean so much. Thank you.



A reminder of the scale of the recovery appeal.

The Dean's Challenge

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Dean's Challenge, which we launched in our Easter newsletter.

The aim was for each member to raise £90 for the Friends in our 90th anniversary year.

However, as the pandemic and lockdown overtook us, with no

public gatherings allowed, it became impossible for Friends to hold any fundraising events.

We therefore had to abandon the challenge.

During its short running time, however, members donated £950 - a testament to our loyal and generous supporters. Thank you so much.

Salisbury Cathedral - the current situation

Since we last communicated with you all via *Spire* much has changed at the cathedral.

Public worship and visits are allowed via a pre-bookable system and furloughed staff have returned to work.

Things are different, of course and the cathedral has had to adapt to the new world: the size of the congregation for services is limited, the number of visitors allowed inside the building at any time is strictly controlled and face coverings must be worn.

Dean Nicholas said in the summer that it had been “a huge relief and a great joy to re-open the cathedral’s doors after the months of lockdown - in June for individual prayer and in July for public worship and for tourist visiting”.

The shop and refectory re-opened, and the choir is allowed to sing again.

To maintain a Covid-secure environment, pre-booking for services and visits remains, allowing staff to control the number of people inside, comply with social distancing regulations and record track-and-trace details.

UK visitor numbers have increased, but visitors from overseas remain largely absent.

The cathedral will probably continue to operate below its usual visitor capacity well into 2021 and sadly there may be staff redundancies.

Dean Nicholas said: “At the end of March we had to close our doors, along with shops and businesses across the city.

“We lost all visitor donations, as well as all income from our shop, restaurant, tours, events and concerts.

“The effect is catastrophic for us and others, but we are conscious that we have a role to play in supporting the city and attracting visitors, and we are determined to do that.

“The cathedral and city have stood together for 800 years and will continue to do so.”

- Booking can be done online via the cathedral website www.salisburycathedral.org.uk or for those who are unable to book online, via the telephone booking line 01722 512156.
- Despite the challenges the cathedral remains a popular place to visit.

In August it was awarded a Trip Adviser Travellers’ Choice Award, based on a full year of consistently good Trip Adviser reviews.

Grants

So far this year the Friends’ council has made grants of £99,000 to the cathedral.

The sum has already been paid to help alleviate the cathedral’s funding deficit, and further grants will be made before the end of our 2020/21 financial year in March.

The figure includes £22,000 for live streaming equipment, enabling cathedral services to be viewed as they happen by those unable to attend in person.

Canon Treasurer Robert Titley said the cameras and wiring were



The use of a cherry picker was vital in the installation of the live streaming equipment in September.

installed in September and services are now being broadcast live onto the cathedral’s YouTube channel.

“There are many people who are at home by virtue of disability, illness or frailty,” said Robert.

“And there are others who were part of the cathedral’s regular worshipping community who cannot return to church yet, but have access to a computer.

“By having these cameras we can continue to embrace people who are at home, as well as those attending in the flesh, because those at home can ‘participate’ as a service happens.”

The three PTZ P200 cameras - one at the west window and two in the nave at triforium level, are made by a company called BirdDog and were installed by Fordingbridge company Pro Live.

The cathedral’s works department assisted Pro Live director Ben Bennett and his team in running cables while protecting the building.

And the works department’s Richard Pike fashioned bespoke expanding brackets for the cameras to fit onto the pillars without drilling any holes.

Robert said: “The definition is even sharper than we thought it would be, even when filming from the west window to as far as the high altar.”

- The seventh instalment (of eight) of £74,000 to the Little Paradise



Display cases paid for by the Friends are being used to house The Cathedral that Moved exhibition. One of the cases is shown here with its smart cover made by volunteer Heather Adeley.

project has been paid, along with £3,000 for Cathedral Flowers.

- Robert said the restoration of the Bishop's door, the cost of which is to be met by the Friends, had not yet been done, as the works department had been furloughed during lockdown and once the team returned, efforts had been concentrated on crafting a new timber frame for the Moses window.

Similarly, while the stone has been obtained for constructing the new

access to the cathedral, work will not start until the New Year.

- The display cases paid for in the 2019/20 financial year are being used to house the current exhibition in the north transept.

Covers have been made for them by volunteer Heather Adeley.

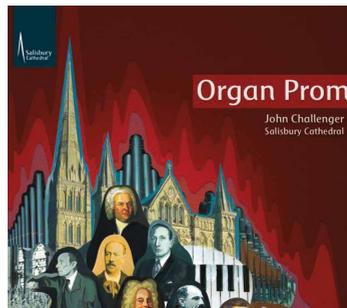


Cathedral Flowers created this colourful autumnal arrangement including chrysanthemums and Michaelmas daisies.

Organ prom CD

A Christmas present idea comes in the form of the cathedral's new CD.

Organ Prom is a collection of classics including Widor's *Toccata* and Elgar's *Nimrod*, played on the restored Father Willis organ by assistant director of music John Challenger.



For more information click on the link below.

<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/worship-music-our-organ/listen>

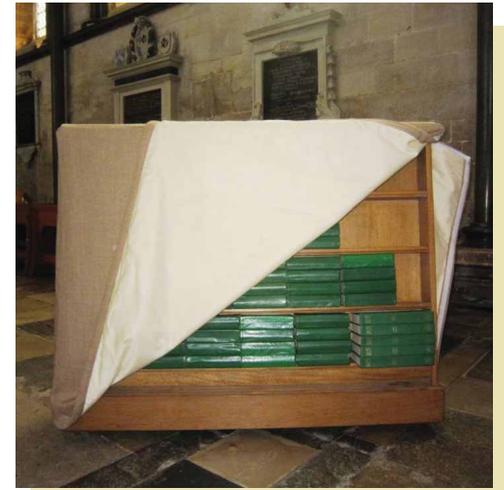
Hymn book rack covers

Three new hymn book rack covers commissioned by the Friends were unveiled in July, thanks to the expertise and generosity of Caroline Probert.

Caroline said each one took three weeks to make and she very much enjoyed the project.

"Each rack is a different size and shape, so the covers are individually done, although they are all made the same way," explained Caroline, whose husband is Canon Chancellor Edward Probert.

"I used a fabric that looks like linen, but is made of polyester and is very hard-wearing.



One of the hymn book rack covers, showing the lining and fastenings.

"I also put in a lining and inter-lining, and the covers fasten with Velcro."

Friends' chairman Duncan Glass presented Caroline with a thank you card and gift voucher.

He said: "We are very grateful to Caroline for her time and skill in making the covers.

"The old ones had become very worn and torn. The new ones are magnificent."

Editor's note: At the time of writing, government regulations state that there can be no hymn singing in places of worship.

The Friends hope that while the new covers are simply keeping the hymn books clean at present, there will soon come a day when the racks will be pressed into service again.



Friends' chairman Duncan Glass presents Caroline Probert with a thank you card and gift voucher, as a token of thanks for her hard work.

The Vicar of the Close

The Friends' upstairs office at 33a The Close has a new tenant.

Vicar of the Close the Revd Canon Nigel Davies, who was installed at the end of August, is using the office as his work space.

The arrangement is part of the Friends' giving to the cathedral.

Nigel was to have been installed in April, but his move to Salisbury was delayed due to the pandemic.

His responsibilities include supporting and strengthening the cathedral community, and supervising arrangements for baptisms, marriages, funerals and interments.

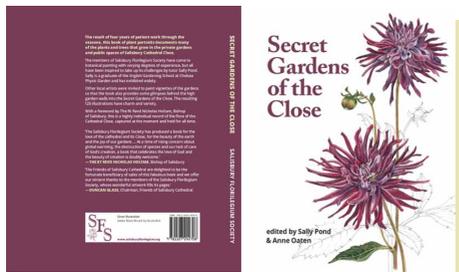


Vicar of the Close the Revd Canon Nigel Davies is working from the Friends' office.

Nigel succeeds the Revd Ian Woodward who retired last year.

Salisbury Florilegium Society book

If you are stuck for an idea for a special Christmas present, look no further than Salisbury Florilegium Society's *Secret Gardens of the Close* book.



The front and back covers of Salisbury Florilegium Society's book.

The book is beautifully illustrated with paintings by society members of the flowers, trees and plants from the 'secret gardens'.

Sally Pond, who founded the society with fellow artist Nick Stiven, said the book was the society's way of supporting the cathedral in its 800th anniversary year.

All profits from sales are donated to the Friends for the benefit of the cathedral.

The book, which costs £25, is available from the Florilegium website www.salisburyflorilegium.org/sfs-book or from the Friends' office.

The Friends' AGM

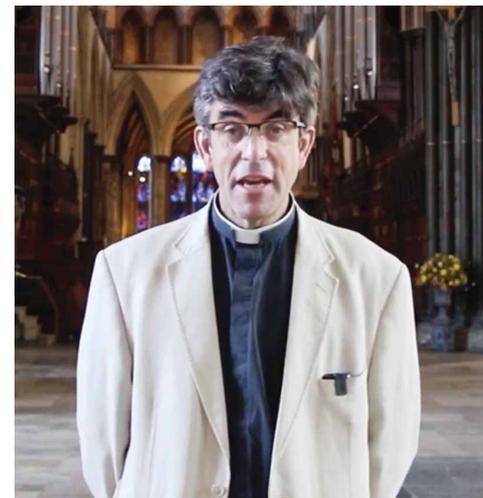
We were greatly saddened that we were unable to welcome you all to Friends' Day on 5th September.

With government regulations restricting large gatherings, we could not hold the AGM, lecture and tea in the cathedral as usual.

Instead, as it is a legal requirement for us to hold an AGM, we enclosed a voting form with *Spire*, enabling you to vote on (i) the minutes of the 2019 AGM, (ii) the adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020, (iii) the appointment of honorary auditors, and (iv) the election of two new members of council. (see following article).

We received about 200 responses and members were almost unanimously in favour of all four proposals.

To make up for the disappointment of not having Friends' Day in the cathedral, our president, Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos, chairman Duncan Glass and Canon Treasurer Robert Titley have recorded



In his recorded message Friends' president Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos thanked members for their "continued support, encouragement and friendship" of the cathedral and for their "extraordinary generosity" to the recovery appeal.

messages, which you can access via the Friends' website here:

<https://salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk/>

The link also features the Salisbury Anthem, commissioned for the cathedral's 800th anniversary.

We are grateful to cathedral staff for making this possible.

Email addresses

Currently we hold an email address for only 40 per cent of our members.

Having your email addresses will enable us to contact you more quickly and easily regarding events and other matters, if necessary.

Please email it to friends@salcath.co.uk or phone 01722 335161. Thank you.

New Trustees

Two new trustees, Derek Brown and Joanna Higgs have been elected to serve on the Friends' council for three years.

The election took place by means of voting forms sent to members with *Spire*.

Derek grew up in Salisbury and was educated at Shaftesbury and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport, he served in Germany and Brunei before spending two years as an instructor at Sandhurst.

Further tours in Germany, Canada, UK and Cyprus followed.

He saw active service in Northern Ireland and served in the Gulf during the First Gulf War.



Joanna Higgs

He commanded his regiment in Taunton before leaving the service in 1997.

In 1999 he became managing director of a heavy haulage transport firm which moved the Army's heavy armour.

His staff and vehicles were continuously on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2003 and 2013.

He was awarded an OBE in 2009 for services to the defence industry.

Derek and his wife, Penny have lived in Salisbury since 1995 and are guides at the cathedral.

In 2016 Derek became Mayor of Salisbury and until recently was the Rifles' County Colonel for Wiltshire.

He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Carmen and a Freeman of the City of London.



Derek Brown

Joanna began her career in the civil service in London.

She has worked at the European Commission in Brussels and in London as a public affairs adviser where she was often at the European Parliament or the House of Commons.

She moved to Dorset more than 25 years ago with her family where she worked with volunteers and IT.

She spent 18 years working with the NHS and in a hospice where she installed an electronic patient record system, linking up vital services across the county.

She was responsible for Information

Governance and General Data Protection Regulation.

She moved to Salisbury in 2018 to work as the IT project manager at the cathedral where she came into contact with the Friends.

Joanna has been a volunteer on a national helpline, a parish clerk, a cricket club treasurer (and occasional player), and an active participant in an amateur dramatics society.

We are very grateful to Jo and Derek for bringing their varied skills and expertise to our Friends' council and look forward to working with them over the coming months.

Gift membership

The Friends' council is working to increase the number of members (currently just over 2,700) so that more can be given in grants to the cathedral.

To do this we need your help! Please encourage your friends to join us or, if you're stuck for an idea for a Christmas present, why not consider Friends' gift membership?

Membership costs £25 for an individual and £40 for a couple.

Your gift will include a membership form for your friend or relative to complete and a gift number, enclosed in a Florilegium Society notecard.

For more details, contact the office on 01722 335161.



Gift membership is enclosed in one of the Florilegium Society's notecards, like this one.

Friends' events for 2021

We had hoped to set out in this newsletter details of our programme of events for 2021.

However, at the time of going to press we cannot be sure they will be able to go ahead, due to government restrictions on gatherings.

Therefore, we are not enclosing a booking form with this newsletter and ask that you keep checking our website www.salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk for the latest information.

If events can go ahead, they will be advertised on our website, from which you will be able to download a booking form.

Among the events planned are: a trip to the Weald & Downland Living



*We are hoping to hold our annual **Secret Gardens of the Close** afternoon next May, enabling visitors to see beautiful gardens like this one.*

Museum and Chichester Cathedral (postponed from April 2020), a *Secret Gardens of the Close* afternoon, a concert, a new members' afternoon, our anniversary dinner (postponed from July 2020), a theatre performance and the annual Friends' Day.

There will also be a trip to Coventry to see the ruins of the old cathedral before visiting the new cathedral and enjoying tea with the Friends of Coventry Cathedral.

There are limited places available, so please contact the Friends' office if you have not transferred your booking over from this year and are interested in going.

Friends' holiday 2021

The 2021 Friends' holiday will be to Derbyshire and the Peak District - the destination of the 2020 trip that had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

It will take place from Sunday 27th June to Thursday 1st July 2021.

The trip will include visits to Bolsover Castle, Chatsworth House and Hardwick Hall.

The Cathedral that Moved exhibition

The two display cases paid for by the Friends in its 2019/20 grants schedule have been used to house the cathedral's latest exhibition, *The Cathedral that Moved*.

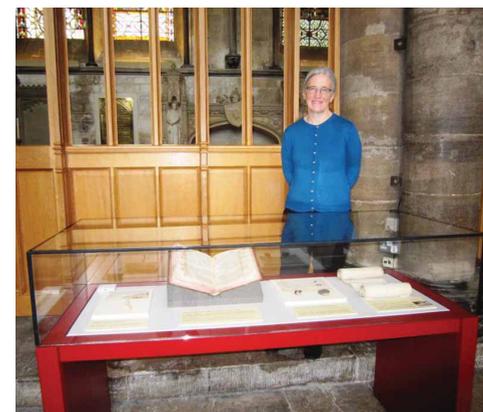
As part of the programme of events to mark the 800th anniversary of the cathedral's move from Old Sarum to its present site, a collection of treasures is on display in the north transept.

The artefacts, from the library and archive, include the papal bull permitting the cathedral to move from Old Sarum, a 19-foot list of all the food eaten by a canon treasurer in a year, and a book from the scriptorium at Old Sarum written in the early 1100s, making it older than the cathedral itself.

The book is one of more than 60 surviving manuscripts.

On display for the first time, the papal bull - or letter - sent by Pope Honorius III, is bound into the Register of St Osmund, which contains documents from the cathedral's earliest history, including the 1091 foundation charter for the first cathedral at Old Sarum and a description of the laying of the present cathedral's foundation stones on 28th April 1220.

The exhibition, which is curated by cathedral archivist Emily Naish, also



Cathedral archivist Emily Naish with one of the display cases provided by the Friends now housing some of the exhibition's treasures.

includes two information boards and a four-minute animated film by Bournemouth University students.

The boards tell the story of two bishops: Bishop Osmund, and Bishop Richard Poore who organised the move and began the building of the new cathedral.

Emily said: "Our challenge was how to link what we have in the cathedral with the 'move story' of 1220.

"There are things that make that connection: the Mogford Model, which was restored thanks to the Friends and which shows the building of the cathedral, a window at the end of the north quire aisle commemorating the laying of the foundation stones, the Trinity Chapel - the first part of the cathedral to be finished, and the tomb of William Longspee - he laid one of the foundation stones."

Emily said that as well as the book collection, documents and other precious objects, three tombs and relics of saints were brought from Old Sarum.

These relics were dispersed during the Reformation and all that remains is a list with black ink scribbled over it.

Also on show is an 'Indulgence' issued by Archbishop Stephen Langton around the time building began on the present site.

It grants forgiveness for 30 days of sin to anyone who contributes towards the cost of construction.

"And there is a document from the 1300s relating to leases of property in the developing city, which connects the cathedral to the city," said Emily.

The 19-foot scroll lists all the food bought for the household of Robert de Cardeville, the cathedral's canon treasurer in the year 1256-1257.

It details how much it cost, where it was eaten and on what day.

The menu includes *carne grossa* or great meat - beef, mutton or pork, *gallinis* (chickens) and on Fridays, fish listed as *herring*, *plaice*, and

ling, a kind of cod. For feasts there were spiced sauces, pies and pasties.

The canon treasurer's clerk, Colin was responsible for keeping the account.

Current canon treasurer Robert Titley said: "I suspect our supermarket receipts for a year, laid end to end, would be even longer than my namesake's parchment.

"Train tickets, bike bits and some petrol have replaced the horse fodder, though I eat nearly ten kilos of oats a year myself.

"And we too enjoy the skills of someone called Colin - he helps us with the garden."

The exhibition runs until spring 2021.



The Register of St Osmund containing documents from the cathedral's earliest history.

An extraordinary Friend

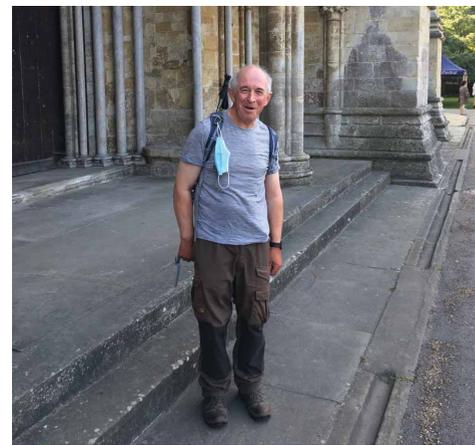
Salisbury Cathedral is an iconic building in anyone's book and has a strong magnetic pull. Its spire points heavenwards, visible from miles around as a beacon to head for.

One of our loyal members, Sean Wilson has felt this attraction over the last few years.

Since 2016 he has set out from his home each month and walked to Salisbury Cathedral, stopping for refreshment and rest in the refectory. He then walks home.

Admirable, you might think, but not particularly unusual: that is until you realise that Sean lives in a village near Andover - a round trip of 34 miles.

Sean travels cross-country, taking in Goodworth Clatford and Grateley



Journey's end: Sean completes his 100th walk to Salisbury Cathedral from his home near Andover.



Sean passes another cathedral 'walker', the Walking Madonna.

station, then onto the Portway to Idmiston, Porton, Gomeldon and the Winterbournes, St Thomas's Bridge and to the cathedral for a welcome rest and cup of tea.

He has become a familiar figure on many a Saturday morning, sitting in the cloisters waiting for the refectory to open for his cup of tea and bacon sandwich, before the return trip.

He sometimes treats himself to a train journey for the return leg, but still has a three-mile walk home from the station.

Sean's pilgrimages are even more remarkable when you realise that he sets off at 3am, or even earlier.

We learned of Sean's remarkable walks when he wrote to us during lockdown, describing his perambulations and regretting the enforced rest he had had to take during the spring.

However, as the cathedral opened its doors again in July, Sean shouldered his bag and set off for Salisbury once more, heading for the spire and the goal of his 100th walk.

On 8th August we met Sean as he strode into the Close on a warm summer's morning, having set off at 2am.

The Walking Madonna, frozen in perpetuity in her stride away from the cathedral, 'watched' Sean head purposefully towards the west front

to join the queue to enter the cathedral - a routine that has brought him much joy and contentment (and exercise).

Sean said: "I have walked in torrential rain, gales, drifting snow and everything in between."

And his thoughts on achieving his 100th walk?

"A most rewarding venture on many levels," he said.

Julia Lever.

Solar panels and other green initiatives

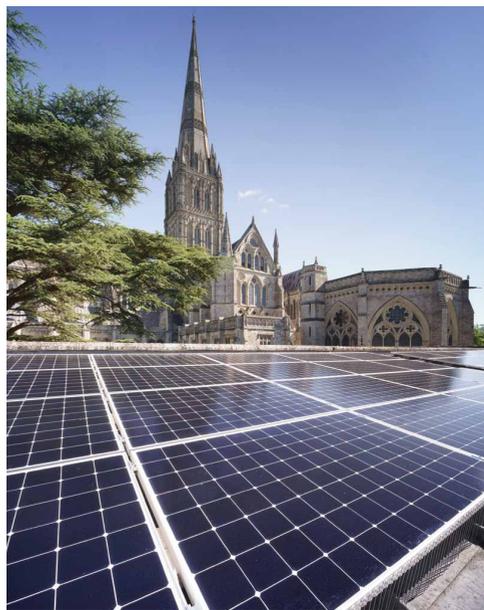
More than 90 solar panels were installed on the cathedral's south cloister roof in July and are already pumping electricity into the building.

The 93 panels, covering 150 square metres, cannot be seen from the ground, but will be visible to those on tower tours.

It is estimated that they will produce more than 30,000kw hours each year, the equivalent of the usage of eight British households.

The project, which was given planning permission in March, is part of the cathedral's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Bishop of Salisbury the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam said: "The Church of England is working hard towards a net zero carbon footprint by 2030.



Solar panels were installed on the cathedral's south cloister roof in July.

"As the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment I am delighted that Salisbury Cathedral is making a contribution that takes us towards this."



Canon Treasurer Robert Titley poses in front of the display panel, showing the amount of electricity generated by the solar panels.

Canon Treasurer Robert Titley said: "We are delighted to be the second English cathedral to install solar panels as part of our continuing green initiatives.

"These have included draught-proofing our medieval building, moving to green tariff energy and installing LED lighting."

The cathedral has already received a silver award under the Eco Church scheme, sponsored by A Rocha UK (meaning 'rock' in Portuguese). The installation of solar panels will help towards the gold award.

The project was the initiative of not-for-profit society Salisbury Community Energy and social enterprise Schools Energy Cooperative, and the money was raised through a community share

offer. The panels, owned by small ethical investors, were designed and installed by Joju Solar.

You can see how much electricity the solar panels are producing by checking the display panel in the cathedral shop.

- The Close to Nature flora and fauna survey of the Close discovered a rare dock known as the fiddle dock.

Less common than the broad-leaved dock, it is so-called because the shape of its leaf resembles a fiddle or violin.

Robert said the dock is said to thrive on cow dung and its continued presence could be explained by the 19th century practice of grazing cattle in the Close.

- The cathedral's supplier of face masks has brought out a 100 per cent recyclable range of disposable masks.



The fiddle dock, discovered during the Close to Nature survey.

Salisbury Cathedral events

For more information visit
www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events



Flashback to last year and the cathedral's Christmas tree near the Friends' office looks magnificent, especially when lit up at night.

Christmas Tree Trail

Salisbury City Council is putting on a Christmas Tree Trail around the city centre, which will include the cathedral's magnificent tree by the Friends' office.

The trail has been planned so that if there are changes to lockdown measures, people will still be able to take part and view the displays in a safe and socially-distanced manner.

The trail comprises 12 Christmas trees and trail maps will be available from Salisbury Information Centre and to download at home.

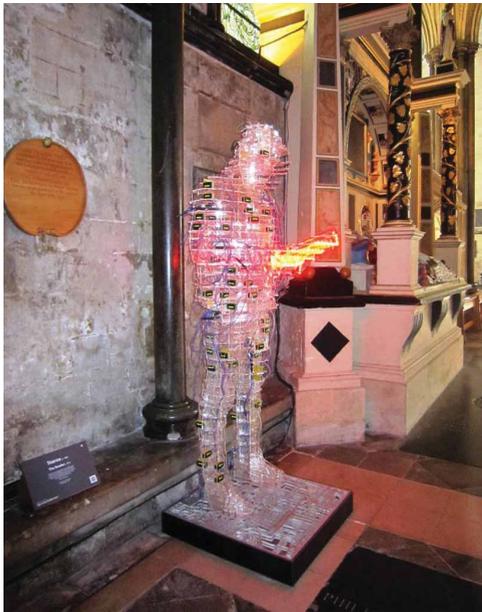
Spirit and Endeavour exhibition

There is still time to visit the cathedral's exhibition Spirit and Endeavour if you haven't yet done so - or to re-visit for another look.



Lynn Chadwick's Sitting Couple on a Bench seems to be inviting visitors to rest a while in the autumn sunshine.

The exhibition was scheduled to finish in October, but due to the pandemic and the cathedral having



As the days get colder, Stanza's The Reader offers a warm glow to visitors passing by the south quire aisle.

been closed to visitors for three months, it has been extended to April 2021.

Spirit and Endeavour is the cathedral's largest contemporary art exhibition for nearly 20 years and marks the 800th anniversary of the cathedral's move from Old Sarum to its present site, and the development of the city.

Salisbury Samaritans

Do you understand finance?

The Salisbury branch of the Samaritans is looking for an honorary treasurer, as the current post holder is stepping down in the New Year.

If you have knowledge of accounting and would like to support the Samaritans' work, the branch would be delighted to hear from you.

For more information, email

Curated by Jacqueline Creswell, the cathedral's visual arts adviser, it brings together work from some of the most influential contemporary artists of the 20th and 21st century, including Antony Gormley, Henry Moore and Grayson Perry.

The cathedral has also commissioned new works from Bruce Munro and Daniel Chadwick.

Sue Edwards at
vice-director@samaritansofsalisbury.org.uk or call 01722 328319.

Volunteers provide support throughout the UK to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope or at risk of suicide.

Salisbury branch has about 100 members and is happy to talk to anyone interested in becoming a listening volunteer.

The Friends of Salisbury Cathedral

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The Association is registered with the Charity Commission No 243439

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Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services

at
Salisbury
Cathedral



Further details and booking please check online
salisburycathedral.org.uk
or phone **01722 512156**

**Salisbury
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