

Salisbury Cathedral  
FRIENDS

NEWS

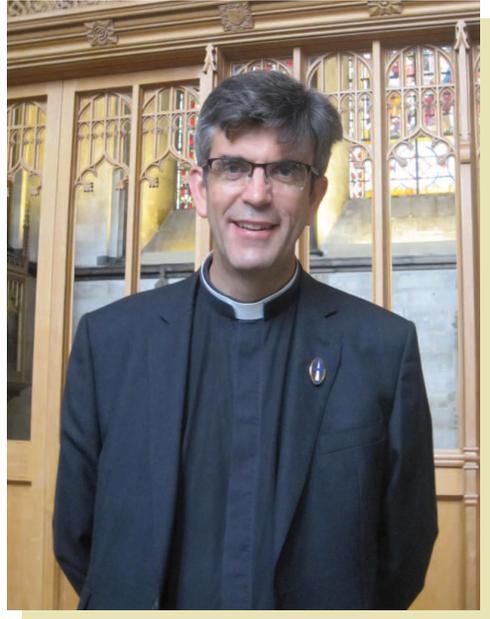


CHRISTMAS 2021

The stand-out success of Salisbury's 2020 Christmas was the city council's Christmas Tree Trail. In mid-November, 12 huge trees were placed at strategic locations in the city. Each was decorated to represent one of the Twelve Days of Christmas. A series of clues connected them, and each bore a letter of the alphabet. Every day, people of all ages and in every grouping imaginable, followed the clues from tree to tree and strung the letters together to make a word. The first tree in the trail stood proudly outside the Friends' office, just inside the Cathedral Close, hung with golden pears and topped with an enormous partridge. I shivered my way round the whole trail on Christmas Eve with my family.

Perhaps the success was due to our lockdown experiences in 2020. Perhaps we were glad to be back in the open air, together, doing something festive (despite the wintry climate). But I suspect that the trail would have been a success even without the pent-up frustrations with which we have all lived for 18 months.

The Christmas story is full of trails. Mary makes her way to Bethlehem



from Nazareth; the Wise Men journey from the East; Joseph takes the family into exile in Egypt. It's also full of puzzles: Joseph wrestles with his dreams; the Wise Men interpret a star's message; Herod's advisers pore over ancient prophecy. Our stories are full of trails and full of puzzles, too. There are the daily ones: the well-worn track of the dog's favourite walk; the unchanging bus journey to school; the fiendish crossword; the bemusing reticence of a teenage grandchild. And there are lifelong ones: the lengthy trail of

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a marriage or a career; the huge puzzle presented by ill-health or by relationships that fail.

We could describe our lives in trails and puzzles, and there's something irresistible about following one and solving another. Whether we are doing battle with a Christmas Sudoku or looking for Five Gold Rings by the Poultry Cross in the dark and wet of a December evening, we are rehearsing in a small way what we are actually doing every day. We are continually moving from one place to another - geographically, intellectually, emotionally - looking ahead, scanning the horizon, trying to discern where we will go to next, working out what it will mean when we get there. Whenever we flex our trail-finding muscles or deploy our puzzle-solving skills, we have the opportunity to get better at both.

Christian faith does not solve the puzzle - in the sense of answering all our questions - and it does not necessarily straighten the trail - in the sense of clearing away all the obstacles that we will face. But it promises that there will be a solution to the puzzle, and that we never follow the trail unaccompanied. That solution and that accompaniment are offered to us at Christmas, in the babe lying in a manger.

So effective was the Salisbury trail at getting people together and encouraging exploration of the city, that it is being repeated this year. I look forward to seeing many more trail-finders and puzzle-solvers begin their Christmas journey at Salisbury Cathedral.

**Nick Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury**

### From the Chairman

Welcome to the Friends' Christmas newsletter for 2021. I hope this finds you, your family and friends safe and well. I begin by expressing my grateful thanks to members who attended our AGM and accompanying events on Saturday 25th September, as we enjoyed the highest attendance in many years. It was wonderful to welcome more than 150 of you and to enjoy a positive and happy atmosphere, now that we are able to meet in person again after last





Author Christopher Somerville gave a fascinating talk about Britain's cathedrals.

year's dreadful restrictions and the dire consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Our guest speaker, author Christopher Somerville, gave a fascinating talk about Britain's cathedrals, their architecture, art and artefacts, focusing on the often-unsung heroes behind the scenes who have preserved and maintained them for centuries. Afterwards we enjoyed a convivial cream tea in the cloisters, with a splendid celebratory cake to mark the 91st anniversary of the Friends.

During the reporting year covered at the AGM - April 2020 to March 2021,

we gave, despite everything, grants totalling £164,786 to the cathedral for specific projects, including the penultimate £74,000 for Little Paradise, video equipment to enable live streaming to take place, the Recovery Appeal fund and the removal of the cloister entrance ramp. Thank you all for your generous support in making this possible.

Your Friends' charity has taken a steady and cautious return to holding events, as restrictions and risk assessments allow. The Friends' annual holiday at the end of June saw 20 members enjoy a five-day trip to Derbyshire, followed at the end of July by a small legators' tea at the Deanery and in August, *This Is My Theatre* performing in the Medieval Hall.

Our flagship event, *Secret Gardens of the Close* was held on Sunday 12th September and despite being so late in the year, it was a great success, with 850 visitors enjoying eight private gardens opened by their generous owners, each of whom had worked hard to ensure these beautiful spaces looked their best. Our concern that there wouldn't be enough flowers in bloom was unfounded, as they were wonderful. Thanks to all our volunteers who made the event flow smoothly, and we look forward to your invaluable help for next year's *Secret Gardens*.

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Members enjoying 'a convivial cream tea' in the cloisters.

Salisbury Florilegium Society exhibited beautiful artworks in the Medieval Hall and enjoyed great attention and sales. The society has recently been wound up as originally planned, but remaining artworks and its book containing prints will still be available and exhibited again at next year's *Secret Gardens*. The Friends' council is extremely grateful for the generous support we have received from the society and for the funds it raised and donated to the Friends; This amounts to about £15,000. Thank you.

Talks about the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral to groups on Zoom allow us to give a presentation online, detailing the history, achievements and activities of the charity. Do let us know if you are involved in a group that would like to hear from us in this way. No group is too small or too large for such a presentation. We can send you the slides if you wish to hold a presentation for colleagues and friends, and recruit new members.

May I quote a small piece from a recent financial report on charities?

*"While lockdowns contributed to people holding on to cash three times longer than previously, the use of cash has begun rising as restrictions have eased, according to UK Finance. However, the banking trade body says we're still hoarding an estimated £50 million in loose change at home, with little sign of it being spent. It has prompted calls for people to donate their coins to charity, amid reports of a drop in donations last year".*

All members who live near the Friends' office in Salisbury are invited to drop off coins they have accumulated. We can collect locally if that helps and we have a robust trolley for larger amounts! Thank you in anticipation.

In conclusion, we repeat our thanks to all who increased their subscription to the Friends' charity at the beginning of this year, and those who have changed to payment by direct debit. We are experiencing the lowest level of membership for many years, mostly due to the cathedral being closed to visitors for many months last year and the sad passing of a number of members. We are enclosing with this newsletter a form asking you to give a family member or friend a gift of membership at either £25 single or £40 joint, and hope this proves the ideal gift this Christmas.

We are saddened to learn that Robert Titley, our canon treasurer and Chapter representative on the Friends' council since 2015, will be leaving us early next year. We are extremely grateful for the time and expertise Robert has devoted to the Friends and our council since coming to Salisbury. He and Caroline have been tireless in supporting the Friends and generously making their house and garden available to us on many occasions. We will miss them and wish them every happiness and success in their future ministry in London.

Finally, on behalf of the Friends' trustees, staff and volunteers, thank you for your continued support in

preserving and enhancing Salisbury Cathedral, its ministry and music.

We send every good wish to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year.

**Duncan Glass, Chairman**



*Concern that there wouldn't be enough flowers in bloom at the September **Secret Gardens** was unfounded - they were wonderful!*

## Membership matters

In common with many other charities, the Friends' association has seen a decline in membership over the last 20 months.

Sadly, we lost some of our long-standing members during the pandemic.

But throughout this difficult time, you, our loyal members, have been steadfast in your support, and we are so grateful to you.

Without your subscriptions and donations, we would not have been able to give as much as we did in grants to the cathedral during the 2020/21 year.

And despite the gloom of recent times, we have much to shout about: during the current financial year, we finish paying for Little Paradise, the project which enabled state-of-the-art toilet facilities, a boiler room and storage areas to be created.

We have paid for the new level-access entrance to the cathedral and live-streaming equipment, enabling services to be broadcast live so they can be viewed as they happen by those unable to attend in person.

Now we need your help to boost our numbers.

Perhaps your friends were among the 35,000 people who received their Covid-19 vaccinations in the cathedral?

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If those friends appreciated having their injections in such sumptuous surroundings, while being serenaded by beautiful organ music, they might like to say thank you by joining the Friends.

**With your copy of this newsletter, you will find a form on gift membership.**

So, if you are stuck for an idea for a Christmas present, what better gift could you give than Friends' membership?

Your friends will enjoy free entry to the cathedral\*, they will receive our newsletters and annual report *Spire*, invitations to our regular events, including our annual Friends' Day and AGM - and most importantly, our heartfelt gratitude for their support.

### Subscriptions

**A**s we announced in our Christmas 2020 newsletter and reiterated in our 2021 Easter newsletter and annual report *Spire*, subscriptions are now £25 for a single membership and £40 for joint membership.

Many of you who are paying by standing order are yet to contact your bank to increase the amount and we'd be grateful if you would do so now.

From the New Year, we will assume that those who do not arrange to increase their standing order are happy for their payment to be treated as a donation and that they

Their on-going subscriptions will enable us to give even more in grants to help, as our objects state, "in maintaining, preserving, improving and enhancing the fabric, fittings, ornaments, furniture, music and monuments of the cathedral, and to support its life, worship and ministry".

By joining the Friends, they can be assured that their subscription will be used wisely and that they are helping to care for this magnificent building.

**Please remember that if you are visiting the cathedral, you must bring your membership card with you and that it is non-transferable.**

\*Excluding cathedral ticketed events, concerts or parking.

no longer wish to receive our newsletters and annual report *Spire*.

We are taking this stance in order to be fair to all those who are paying the correct amount.

The increase in subscription rates will help us keep pace with inflation (particularly ever-increasing postage costs), mitigate the impact of the pandemic and fulfil our aim to give as much as possible in grants to the cathedral.

Our grants are possible only by means of the subscriptions, donations and legacies of our members.

The easiest thing to do is to switch payment method from standing order to direct debit, so that any future changes in subscriptions will be made automatically for you.

**Please ring the office on 01722 555190 and a direct debit instruction will be sent to you.**

**And once you have made the switch, please remember to cancel your standing order.**

## Grants

**T**he Friends' council has agreed a number of grants to the cathedral in the current financial year (April 2021 to March 2022).

Trustees had already decided to fund the second £20,000 for the new cloister entrance (the first £20,000 had been paid in the 2020/21 financial year).

And in July, the final £22,000 was agreed, making a total of £42,000 paid in the 2021/22 financial year.

Also in July, trustees agreed a £200 grant for materials to refurbish 18 seat cushions in the Morning Chapel.

This sum has been paid and will cover re-stuffing the cushions and



*The Friends have made a £200 grant for the refurbishment of seat cushions in the Morning Chapel.*



*The finished new entrance to the cathedral.*

refurbishing any of the fine embroidery, as needed.

The final £72,000 for the £1.2m Little Paradise project will be paid before the end of the current financial year, along with £3,000 to Salisbury Cathedral Flowers.

And as part of the Friends' giving to the cathedral, Vicar of the Close Nigel Davies continues to use the upper floor of the Friends' office as his base.

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### Window s26

A plaque has been placed under window s26 to recognise the grant made by the Friends for its restoration.

The window is in the cathedral's south nave aisle and was re-installed in March 2020.

The £20,000 grant included £9,000 raised at the 2019 *Secret Gardens of the Close* event and a £9,000 donation from Salisbury Florilegium Society.

The Florilegium Society donation came from sales of its original



*The plaque under window s26, recognising the grant made by the Friends for its restoration.*

paintings and copies of its *Secret Gardens of the Close* book.

### Friends' events 2022

It's time to book for our 2022 events!

The programme begins on **Thursday 20th January** with an illustrated talk by historian Julian Humphrys.

Julian is familiar to many members as their knowledgeable guide on the Friends' holidays.

The title of Julian's talk will be *The Vigorous Knight: Sir John Cheyne and the Wars of the Roses*.

He says: "The armour-clad effigy of John Cheyne is one of the most impressive monuments in Salisbury Cathedral.

"A giant of a man, Cheyne was a close ally of the Yorkist King Edward IV. However, after Richard III's seizure of power in 1483 he transferred his support to Henry



*Julian Humphrys will give the January talk in the cathedral.*

Tudor and fought for him at Bosworth where he very nearly lost his life."



*The subject of the January talk is John Cheyne, whose effigy is in the north nave aisle.*

**The talk is at 6.30pm in the cathedral's north transept and tickets, at £15, include a glass of wine or soft drink.**

Our Cosy Coffee Mornings resume in the Bell Tower Tearooms on 16th February.

We hope you will join us for coffee or tea, and biscuits.

All are welcome and donations will be gratefully received.

**On Wednesday 16th March,** we will be inviting those who have recently joined the Friends to an afternoon of tours, including the library, and tea.

As we were unable to hold this event in 2021, members who joined between March 2020 and 2021, as well as those who have joined since March 2021 will be included.

**The afternoon begins at 2.30pm** and will end with a cream tea in the refectory.

**On Thursday 7th April,** the Weald and Downland Living Museum and Chichester Cathedral are the destinations for our coach trip.

We were disappointed to have to cancel this event in 2020 due to the pandemic, so we are delighted to be able to offer it again.

The museum is in the South Downs National Park and comprises more than 50 historic rural houses and buildings from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Edwardian era.

Spread over 40 acres, it tells the stories of the people who lived and worked in rural south-east England during the last thousand years.



*Flashback to 2020 and new members enjoy a tour of the library.*

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After lunch, the trip continues with a tour of Chichester Cathedral before the return journey home.

Our sixth *Secret Gardens of the Close* event will take place in early summer and the Friends' holiday to Norfolk will be from **Sunday 17th to Thursday 21st July** (*see separate article*).

Details of the dinner, with guest speaker the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, and the 2022 Friends' Day will be in the Easter newsletter and *Spire*.

Please also check the website nearer the time for details, and we will email all members about events as they come on line.

**You will find a booking form for the January talk and April coach trip**



*The Weald and Downland Living Museum is the first destination of the April coach trip.*

**with your newsletter. Please book early to avoid disappointment.**

**Details of all events are on the Friends' website [www.salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk](http://www.salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk). Please check regularly for updates.**

### Direct debit

**T**hank you to members who are continuing to switch to direct debit as the way to pay their annual subscription.

We launched the system in 2019 and the total number of those who have completed a direct debit instruction (DDI) is nudging towards 600.

However, we'd like more of you to

sign up, as this will help keep our costs down by reducing the number of cheques that have to be processed each year.

Please get in touch and we'll send you a DDI to complete.

You will receive email confirmation before any payment is taken.

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

### A generous Friend

John Kennerly, who served on the Friends' council as membership secretary for many years, died this year, leaving a generous legacy to the Friends.

We are very grateful for his long-standing support and kindness.

## Autumn and winter events 2021

As the Friends' Christmas 2021 newsletter arrives on doormats, some members will be looking forward to *This Is My Theatre's* production of *The Snow Queen*.

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale will be performed at the Medieval Hall on Wednesday 1st December at 7.30pm and Thursday 2nd December at 5pm.

With live music, songs and characters all ages will love, this



*There are still some chairs available to be sponsored.*



*A detail from This Is My Theatre's poster for The Snow Queen.*

beautiful adaptation is sure to warm hearts this Christmas.

In November, a group of Friends and their families had tea in the refectory before attending a service in the cathedral to bless the new chairs they had sponsored.

Each chair bears a plaque inscribed with a name requested by the sponsor.

In 2003, the Friends agreed to replace all 1,800 chairs in the cathedral and there are about 100 still available to be sponsored.

For more information about sponsoring a chair, contact the Friends' office on 01722 555190.

## Email addresses

Please help us to contact you more easily by letting us have your email address.

It will enable us to get in touch with you quickly with details of events and other matters, if necessary.

Please email it to [friends@salcath.co.uk](mailto:friends@salcath.co.uk) or phone 01722 555190.

## Legacy

The Friends have received an unexpected legacy of nearly £50,000 from the estate of a generous benefactor.

We are most grateful for this gift, which will be put to good use for the benefit of the cathedral.

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### Friends' Day

**W**e were delighted to see so many members at Friends' Day in September.

*More than 150 of you attended the AGM in the north transept - a record number.*

*Many of you commented on how good it was to be back in the cathedral after the disappointment of last year, when, due to the pandemic, we were unable to meet in person and contented ourselves with recorded messages from our president, Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos, our chairman, Duncan Glass and Canon Treasurer Robert Titley.*

*Here is a summary of this year's proceedings.*

The Dean began his address by saying what a pleasure and relief it was to welcome Friends to the cathedral after such a long time, and what an extraordinarily difficult 18 months we had all lived through.



*A record number of members attended the Friends' 91st AGM.*



*Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos tells members how two gifts from the Friends have had a "very material impact on the life of the cathedral".*

"The experience of living through the pandemic has reinforced for all of us the importance of community, relationships and friends," he said.

"I pay heartfelt tribute to the generosity of the Friends in the last 18 months. Many of you contributed individually to the cathedral's recovery appeal, which, together with the support from national church and national and local government, meant we emerged in a far stronger position from the strictures of lockdown.

"Two gifts from the Friends have had a very material impact on the life of the cathedral as we experience it today: the first enabled us to install high-quality live-streaming equipment in the cathedral,



*The magnificent anniversary cake made by Susan Branch, with representations in sugar paste of some of the grants made by the Friends.*

transforming our experience of the pandemic and lockdowns.

“The November and early 2021 lockdowns were of altogether different character to that which we endured at the beginning of last year: we could live stream worship into homes not just around Salisbury and the region, but literally around the world.

“The other gift enabled us to complete work to the new visitor entrance. I hope you will have made a point of experiencing the smoothness of the approach to the cathedral.

“We have almost forgotten how steep and hazardous was the ramp that was there.

“The skill of the architect and works team has transformed the way visitors approach the cathedral.”

Friends’ chairman Duncan Glass welcomed members to the 91st AGM and echoed the Dean’s sense of

pleasure and relief to see everyone in person.

He said last year would be remembered for the dreadful pandemic, and his thoughts and prayers were with all those who had lost loved ones or who were still suffering from medical conditions as a result of Covid-19.

He referred to the increase in subscriptions from 1st January and urged members to change their method of payment to direct debit if they had not done so.

“In the 2020/21 financial year, we gave grants of £164,786,” he said, “and I thank you for your continued support.

“Our investments have grown steadily and we stand ready to make major grants in the future.”

He reported that a gift from the Friends was given to our patron, Bishop Nicholas on his retirement,



*The Dean cuts the cake, which was shared among members at the tea following the lecture.*

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the anniversary dinner had had to be postponed again until 2022 and the cathedral, operating as a vaccination centre, had seen 35,000 people receive their Covid-19 injections.

“We hope some of them will join the Friends, as we have had few people joining, and we ask all members to introduce new members or to give membership to loved ones,” he said.

Treasurer Chris Dragonetti reassured members that the effect of the pandemic on the Friends’ finances had been “not too serious”, despite the fact that none of the planned fundraising events could take place and the cathedral had been closed for much of the year.

“The income from fundraising was very substantially reduced and the share of the cathedral shop income disappeared,” he said, “but nearly £37,000 was raised for the recovery appeal and legacy income was higher.”

Income was nearly £183,000 (£163,000 in 2019/20) and with administrative costs reduced, grants of nearly £165,000 were made.

These included the recovery appeal monies, Little Paradise payment (£74,000), the video equipment (£22,000), stonework repairs (£8,000) and the first instalment of the ramp replacement (£20,000).

With total expenditure nearly £216,000, this resulted in a deficit of £33,000, but investment gains of £161,000 meant a net income of



*A detail from the cake depicts the Little Paradise development and Cathedral Flowers, both of which have benefitted from Friends’ grants.*

£128,000 was achieved, and total funds stood at £907,000.

Friends’ executive secretary Julia Lever said that being unable to hold events in the cathedral last year meant very few new members had joined and the membership total had dipped.

“We look to our members to encourage friends and family to join us,” she said.

“However, we have loyal members and we have fared better than many charities.”

She said that with no in-person events, online quizzes, Zoom talks and videos had kept members engaged, and next year the regular programme of events would resume: talks, trips, coffee mornings, theatre and concerts.

“Last year it was the cathedral’s 800th anniversary and the Friends’ 90th and we had hoped to have an anniversary dinner with Bishop Sarah

Mullally, including a celebration cake,” she said.

So, while the dinner had been postponed until next year, Susan Branch had made a magnificent fruit cake which would be cut and shared at the tea following the AGM and lecture.

## The Friends’ Day lecture

The Friends’ Day lecture was given by Christopher Somerville, author of *Ships of Heaven - The Private Life of Britain’s Cathedrals*.

Christopher is walking correspondent of The Times and has written more than 40 books, including two collections of poetry.

Christopher began by saying how wonderful it was to see so many people - and almost every one of them unmasked.



*Friends’ chairman Duncan Glass (left) and Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos welcome Christopher Somerville back to Salisbury Cathedral.*

Finally, she thanked fellow staff, volunteers, trustees and the chairman for steering the charity, and members “whose loyal support had enabled the Friends to have another very successful year and contribute vital funds to the cathedral”.

At previous talks, he said, he felt “like a bank teller when Bonnie and Clyde came in”.

The title of his book was inspired by the west front of Wells Cathedral, which, he said, looked like a ship with its crew.

“My introduction to the power of the cathedral was my first sight of Ely - my favourite cathedral - on a windy day,” he said.

“The cornfields were rushing with the wind, this way and that way, with the cathedral appearing to plough through this sea of corn, looking like a ship.

“Cathedrals are the most striking thing in the landscape and they will draw your eye and your curiosity,” he said.

They all had two things: the wow factor and the little plaques.

“You go through the west door, you look and go ‘wow’,” he said.

“Everything is overwhelming.

“And there are the plaques: there’s a little plaque here to the Revd

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Benson MA. I want to know about him - who he was and why he was commemorated.”

Christopher always takes binoculars on a cathedral visit so he can take in the “awe and majesty, and the human details”.

He thanked those who helped him on his visit to Salisbury: archivist Emily Naish, head mason Lee Andrews, glaziers Sam Kelly and Vicky Pearce, chaplain John Singleton, canons Robert Titley and Ed Probert, and his tower guide, Dudley Heather.

“The highlight was going on the tower tour with Dudley and seeing the little door where they go up to change the lightbulb (on the spire),” he said.

He said the saga of Christianity was like a soap opera: the early saints, the Saxons building big, the Normans stamping their authority, saying ‘we are here, we are in charge, you submit’, Gothic fan vaulting and beautiful windows, the Reformation when the ordinary person’s faith was shaken to the core, the Puritans who went in for artwork smashing and ripping up brasses from the floor, the great flowering of the British Empire, and the 20th century and two world wars, which saw the destruction of Coventry Cathedral.

“There followed the long, slow business of reconciliation and trying to build something better,” he said, “and now we are into an uncertain



*“Every cathedral is a wonderful repository of art”, Christopher Somerville told his audience during his Friends’ Day lecture.*

future, with Twitter storms and what will happen to our religious faith - it’s a soap opera.”

Christopher listed some of his highlights of Britain’s cathedrals and their people: the St David’s stonemason of 40 years who cannot get anyone to train as an apprentice, a talented broderer at Durham and Salisbury’s holy dusters, all “doing a vital job or exemplifying the idea of voluntary contribution”.

He said every cathedral was a wonderful repository of art.

“They are the greatest art museums this country has got,” he said, “your fabulous font, for example, and the great east window in York Minster, the size of a tennis court.”

Friends’ chairman Duncan Glass presented Christopher with a copy of the cathedral’s organ prom CD, and Christopher signed copies of his book after the lecture.

## Secret Gardens of the Close

It's back!

**A**fter a delay of nearly 18 months, the *Secret Gardens of the Close* afternoon returned to the Friends' calendar of events and judging by the reaction of the hundreds who turned up, it was well worth the wait.

The event is usually held in late spring, but due to the pandemic, the May 2020 and June 2021 events had to be cancelled.

It was decided to try September for a change and the afternoon was blessed not only with a huge number of visitors, but warm, sunny weather too.

Roses were still blooming in some of the gardens and there were dazzling displays of dahlias, fuchsias, hydrangeas, rudbeckias, geraniums, sunflowers and sedums.



*Roll up, roll up for Secret Gardens of the Close! Derek Brown, Tricia Glass (front left) and Rosie Wilkinson prepare to welcome hundreds of visitors to the Friends' flagship event.*



*A pretty lily pond in one of the smaller gardens.*

This is the fifth time the event has been held and it raised a magnificent £8,000.

A further £1,200 was collected for the Sudan Medical Link from the sale of tea and homemade cakes in the Bishop of Salisbury's garden, one of eight to be open.

While most people came from Salisbury and the surrounding villages, there were visitors from Bournemouth, Hastings, Lymington and even Spain.



*Nothing says autumn like dahlias and these majestic specimens were much admired.*

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*Secret Gardens is an event for the whole family. Lou, Henry, Otilie, Matthew and George from Broad Chalke were enjoying this sunny secret garden.*

Friends' chairman Duncan Glass said the charity had been disappointed at having to cancel *Secret Gardens* in 2020 and June 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions.

And by choosing September, there were doubts over the weather, whether there would be colour in the gardens and whether people would wish to visit.



*Vicky Olney, Rachel Lucas, Helen Bevan and Veronica Armstrong, along with their fellow tea ladies were rushed off their feet, providing tea and cakes for the hundreds of visitors to the Bishop of Salisbury's garden.*

“But,” he said, “with lovely weather, generous garden owners, wonderful volunteers and crowds of people supporting the event, we are pleased to say it was a great success.

“More than 800 garden lovers visited and raised a substantial amount of money to give as a grant to the cathedral.



*Visitors “showed genuine interest in our paintings”, said Salisbury Florilegium Society member Sally Pond.*

“Sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen - at last - and to everyone who supported us.”

There was an exhibition of botanical art by Salisbury Florilegium Society in the Medieval Hall, with paintings for sale, along with the society's cards and book entitled *Secret Gardens of the Close*.

Society founder member Sally Pond said: “We were thrilled with the day, it was brilliant.

“There was a lovely atmosphere and people showed genuine interest in the paintings.

“We thank John Waddington for letting us use the Medieval Hall, which is a beautiful setting for our exhibition.”

She added that paintings and books were sold, along with hundreds of cards.

Recorder group Close Consort provided musical entertainment at various locations around the Close.

At the home of Canon Treasurer Robert Titley, visitors could see examples of stone carving undertaken by the cathedral’s works department.

And for the first time there was a green fair on Choristers’ Green, with



*Recorder group Close Consort making sweet music in one of the larger gardens.*

stalls representing Salisbury and Wilton Swifts (SAWS), Salisbury Community Energy, Co-Car, Harnham Water Meadows Trust, and Salisbury Transition City and Share Salisbury.

## Robert Titley

Canon Treasurer Robert Titley, who is the Friends’ representative on Chapter, is to leave the cathedral in January.

Robert’s wife, Caroline has been appointed Vicar of St Andrew Barnsbury, in the King’s Cross area of London.

Robert, who has been at the cathedral since 2015, will take an informal sabbatical and explore the possibilities for his future ministry.

Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos said Robert’s work has been “hugely appreciated”.

“He has been a great support and a good friend to many and we are



*Canon Treasurer Robert Titley is to leave the cathedral in the New Year.*

praying for him and for Caroline as they prepare to move on,” he said.

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### Salisbury Florilegium Society

Salisbury Florilegium Society, the group of botanical artists from Salisbury and the surrounding area, has wound up its activities.

The initial sales of its paintings and books saw it donate £9,000 towards the £20,000 grant the Friends made for the restoration of window s26 in the cathedral.

Now it has given its remaining funds to the Friends for future grants.

Friends' chairman Duncan Glass said: "The Friends' council is extremely grateful for the generous support we have received from the society and for the funds it raised and donated to the Friends."

*Here Florilegium Society member Anne Oaten records the history of the group and its achievements.*

The society, largely made up of students from Sally Pond's botanical painting classes, was started in 2016 when, inspired by the Friends' first *Secret Gardens* event, the idea of painting specimens of the flora of the Cathedral Close was born.

In subsequent years, thanks to Sally's teaching, mentoring and enthusiasm, the students, from beginners to old hands, had accumulated more than 100 paintings.

Exhibitions of these paintings were held, initially in Leaden Hall and then in the Medieval Hall in



*Sally Pond shows students how to capture the intricacies of a flower.*

conjunction with the *Secret Gardens* afternoon each year. Then Sally had the idea of publishing them in a book.

A committee was formed, comprising Nigel Salisbury, Sally, Nick Stiven and Anne Oaten, to raise the funds needed and to run the project. Nadja Guggi of *Dash and Dare* agreed to design the book and act as project manager.

Local artists were invited to paint vignettes of the gardens, Bishop Nicholas wrote a foreword, money was raised and the art work from students and local artists was given freely for the cause.

The book, entitled *Secret Gardens of the Close*, was launched at Sarum College in October 2019, combined with the finale of an on-line auction of the original illustrations.

Four hundred copies of the book were printed by Gomer Press in time for the launch and it was decided

that profits from the auction and book sales would be given to the Friends.

The committee has since concentrated on publicising and selling the book via the society's website, and finding sales outlets.

In December 2019, the society presented the Friends with a cheque for £9,000, which helped towards the restoration of window S26 in the cathedral's south aisle, now marked with a plaque.

Despite the pandemic, books have been sold and with only about 100 left, it was agreed to wind up the society, its purpose having been largely fulfilled.

The society's assets in cash and books have been handed to the Friends - a further £4,324.85, and when the remaining books are sold, the total figure donated to the Friends will be over £15,000.

Apart from the money raised, the book itself is a considerable achievement.

## Theatre group visit

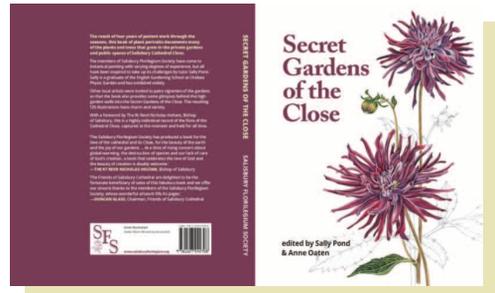
Back by popular demand, *This Is My Theatre* performed *The Secret Garden* at the end of the summer.

The show was a delightful blend of drama and music in a beautiful adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett's classic children's tale.

It has been much admired and I hope it reflects the pleasure we each felt while working on our individual contributions. Thank you everyone.

Even though Salisbury Florilegium Society no longer exists, Sally and her students are determined the art exhibitions will continue on *Secret Gardens* days and we hope to raise further funds for the Friends.

**Salisbury Florilegium Society's *Secret Gardens of the Close* book is available from the Friends' office, price £25. If you are stuck for a Christmas present idea, it would make the ideal gift!**



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

With the Medieval Hall as a perfect backdrop, the cast worked its magic with skill and just a few baskets of roses as props to entertain the audience.

The Friends again had priority booking for the group's show in December, *The Snow Queen*, a chilly introduction to the festive period.

**Julia Lever, Executive Secretary**

## 22 FRIENDSNEWS

### The Friends' holiday 2022

**T**he 2022 Friends' holiday will be to Norfolk and will take place from Sunday 17th to Thursday 21st July.

Members will stay at the Knights Hill Hotel & Spa in King's Lynn and the holiday will include visits to Norwich and Ely cathedrals and Sandringham House, and a boat trip on the Broads.

**If you are interested in coming on the holiday, please email [friends@salcath.co.uk](mailto:friends@salcath.co.uk) for more details and to register your interest.**

**Alternatively you can call into the office or telephone to request more details to be sent by post - in which case please send a SAE for these to be posted to you.**



*The 2022 Friends' holiday will include a visit to Ely Cathedral.*

Numbers will be restricted and places allocated on a first-come first-served basis from the date a deposit is received.

*Please note that some of the visits might need to be adjusted if circumstances change over the next few months.*

### The 2022 Flower Festival

**P**lanning for the 2022 flower festival is well underway, following its launch in October.

“Celebration” A Festival of Flowers takes place from Tuesday 10th to Sunday 15th May and will involve hundreds of arrangers.

It is designed by Michael Bowyer, Pam Lewis and Angela Turner, all Chelsea gold medallists, and managed by Susan Branch.

Michael, creative director of Salisbury Cathedral Flowers and

president of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS), said everyone was saddened when the festival planned for 2020 could not go ahead due to the pandemic, but glad it hadn't been postponed to 2021, as it would have to have been cancelled again.

“As everything opens up again, we hope that by next May everything will be fine!” he said.

The festival will include elements of the cancelled festival as well as themes celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee, key workers, the



“More than 200 people turned up for the launch and those who couldn’t attend, could watch it in their own home, as it was live streamed.”

He added that the festival would be environmentally friendly, as arrangers would be using compostable substitutes for floral foam, and a section of the displays would focus on bees and other pollinators.

Tickets for the 2022 flower festival are now available from the cathedral’s website

<https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/celebration-festival-flowers>

Friends are entitled to a £2 discount on the £15 ticket price.

When booking, make sure you include the booking code FFC227CF.



*Flashback to the 2015 flower festival and these displays depicting land and sea, illustrate the diversity of the Diocese of Salisbury.*

power of nature, the cathedral’s treasures and the Church’s year.

“As well as members of Salisbury Cathedral Flowers, every flower club and every church from the Diocese of Salisbury has been invited to take part,” said Michael.



*Michael Bowyer, creative director of Salisbury Cathedral Flowers.*

## 24 FRIENDSNEWS

### The Friends' holiday to Derbyshire and the Peak District

A holiday! What a treat after months of lockdown, limited travelling and the dreary news full of the progress of the pandemic; So lovely to escape all of this and head up north for a break.

Twenty friends, ready to enjoy themselves, set off from Salisbury for a holiday, based in Sheffield and travelling around Derbyshire and the Peak District.

Over the next five days, we crammed in an impressive list of castles, stately homes and gardens,

and for good measure, squeezed in a cathedral on our final day.

The variety of visits ranged from Chatsworth House, with its glorious state rooms and immense gardens, to the Little Castle at Bolsover - magnificence in miniature; from spectacular fountains to the serenity of the National Memorial Arboretum.

And all in the company of good Friends - altogether a most enjoyable break.

Thank you to all who came along, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

**A full report of the 2021 holiday will appear in the next edition of *Spire*.**

**Julia Lever, Executive Secretary**

### The Dean's pilgrimage

Dean Nicholas Papadopoulos will be leading a pilgrimage through the biblical lands of Israel and Palestine from 19th to 28th April 2022.

"Covid-19 put paid to our plans to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2020," he said.

"I am thrilled that new dates have been identified, and it is with great

pleasure that I can at last issue this invitation to you to join me."

The pilgrimage will include visits to the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.

Booklets and booking forms are available from the Dean's office, 6 The Close, telephone 01722 555110.

### Christmas cards

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

Your orders started arriving soon after *Spire* was sent to members and dozens of packs have been posted or

collected from the office, thanks to the dedicated 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 run out!

## Threads through Creation

Visitors to the cathedral in August and September were able to see 12 colourful textile panels created by Jacqui Parkinson.

The panels, eight feet high and between four and 11 feet wide, re-imagine the days of creation, described in the book of Genesis.

Salisbury Cathedral was the first location for the exhibition, which is being staged in cathedrals across the country.

Described as a 'tour de force of stitching', textile artist Jacqui's



*Textile artist Jacqui Parkinson with one of the Threads through Creation panels.*

panels took nearly three years to complete.

Jacqui starts with antique bedsheets, which she quilts and paints with fabric dyes.

She then overlays these with layers of silk, and stitches them together in a thick black thread - the panels have about eight million stitches.

She also finishes most panels with metallic leathers and gold leaf.



*Panel nine, entitled A snake in the garden.*



*A close-up of panel nine, showing the intricate detail of the stitching.*

## 26 FRIENDSNEWS

### Eco matters

For the first time, this year's *Secret Gardens of the Close* event featured a Green Fair, with stalls promoting an eco-message.

Among them was Salisbury Community Energy.

Caroline Lanyon of Salisbury Community Energy said the installation of solar panels on the cathedral's south cloister roof in July last year had been the initiative of the not-for-profit society.

The project forms part of the cathedral's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.



*The Young Christian Climate Network 'boat' in Salisbury Cathedral.*

Also at the Green Fair were Salisbury Transition City and Share Salisbury, Harnham Water Meadows Trust, Salisbury and Wilton Swifts, and Co-Car.

- A group of young people, walking from Cornwall to Glasgow to draw attention to the effects of climate change on the world's poorest communities, stopped off at Salisbury Cathedral in July.

The group from Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) had joined Christian Aid to ask people across the UK to help them cover every inch of the 1,200-mile route from the location of the G7 summit in Cornwall to the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow.



*Caroline Lanyon of Salisbury Community Energy was at the Friends' Secret Gardens of the Close event's Green Fair.*

## Salisbury Cathedral events

For more information visit  
[www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events)

### The Snowman including The Nutcracker

Friday 3rd December, 2pm, 4pm  
 and 7pm.



Family favourite *The Snowman* is being  
 screened at Salisbury Cathedral.  
 Picture: © Snowman Enterprises Limited.

A special screening of family  
 favourite *The Snowman*,  
 accompanied by a live orchestra.

Alongside *The Snowman*, enjoy the  
 classic tale and music of *The  
 Nutcracker Suite*, complete with an  
 exclusive big screen animation.

Presented by Carrot Productions, the  
 show is suitable for the whole family.

Tickets from £14.

### Christmas Tree Trail

From 19th November.

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

Trail maps are available from  
 Salisbury Information Centre and to  
 download at home.

## The Friends of Salisbury Cathedral

Registered office: 33a The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EJ

Open Tues - Thurs 10am - 1pm

Telephone: 01722 555190 Email: [friends@salcath.co.uk](mailto:friends@salcath.co.uk)

Website: [www.salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk](http://www.salisburycathedralfriends.co.uk)

The Association is registered with the Charity Commission No 243439

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 Treasurer: Chris Dragonetti; Executive Secretary: Julia Lever; Editor: Katharine Shearing.

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# Advent, Christmas and Epiphany services

at  
Salisbury  
Cathedral



## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: THE ADVENT PROCESSION

Friday 26th November	19.00
Saturday 27th November	19.00
Sunday 28th November	17.00

Anyone wishing to attend the Advent procession must book a seat in advance. Please visit the website, which has a phone line for bookings.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Wednesday 22nd December	19.00
Thursday 23rd December	19.00

## A FAMILY SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24th December	15.30
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## CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday 24th December:	
Choral Evensong	17.30
Midnight Mass	23.00

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25th December:	
The Eucharist	10.30
Festal Evensong	15.00

## EPIPHANY

Thursday 6th January 2022	
The Eucharist	17.30
Sunday 16th January 2022	
The Epiphany Devotion	17.00

Further details online at  
[salisburycathedral.org.uk](https://salisburycathedral.org.uk)   



Salisbury  
Cathedral