

Remembering...



Rupert Brooke

The Soldier (1915)

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by the suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



Charles Sorley

'When you see millions of the mouthless dead' (1916)

When you see millions of the mouthless dead
Across your dreams in pale battalions go,
Say not soft things as other men have said,
That you'll remember. For you need not so.
Give them not praise. For, deaf, how should they know
It is not curses heaped on each gashed head?
Nor tears. Their blind eyes see not your tears flow.
Nor honour. It is easy to be dead.
Say only this, "They are dead." Then add thereto,
"yet many a better one has died before."
Then, scanning all the overcrowded mass, should you
Perceive one face that you loved heretofore,
It is a spook. None wears the face you knew.
Great death has made all this for evermore.



From Roger Bush, Dean of Truro Cathedral
June 2014

This autumn the Cathedral is holding a series of events to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the First World War. I hope you have seen our leaflet which details all of these. It is a significant project and illustrates, I think, the enormous impact the War still has on us today, as well as highlighting the great number of ways in which these commemorations take place, from concert to lecture to film to poetry.

All this begs a deep question: what are we actually commemorating? Or, to put it another way, what are we remembering when we put these events on? Behind this is an awareness that our memories are very complicated things; it is not simply about remembering what happened in the past. For our memories are more than a re-collecting of past events. They help shape our identities and tell us who we are. With this in mind we can be quite selective over the sorts of events we call to mind: read any autobiography and, more often than not, you will discover that the author's recollections tend to show them in a favourable light!

The past is often more complicated than our remembrance of it, even our own past. We can smooth things out by suppressing a wrongful action on our part, but the wrongful action still happened and, no doubt, will be remembered by someone else. Historians, of course, have an interest and a duty to try and bring the past to life, but every historian is selective, and it is only ever a version of the past that we read about. For instance, for many decades, the received understanding of the reasons why Europe went to war in 1914 was that it was a collective failure of the old order, with the British just as much locked into that collective failure as anyone else. Now there is renewed interest in the idea that we went to war to stop German expansion and that therefore the reasons for going to war were more noble.

Attitudes and viewpoints change with the telling and re-telling of a familiar story. A truly significant reason why attitudes towards the First World War changed, from being a jingoistic expression of national pride, to something more attritional and wearisome, came in the autumn of 1916 when, in cinemas up and down the country, a documentary film on the Battle of the Somme was shown, revealing the sheer horror of what the front line was really like. That, and the insights given by the great war poets, changed our understanding of the War; in a sense we have lived with that attitude ever since, so when we remember the War we remember the bleakness and the horror first and foremost.

Artists play a major part in opening up our collective memory to different stimuli. Britten's War Requiem, two performances of which are being given in the Cathedral in November, was and is a searing condemnation of war, uniting as it does the words of the Latin Requiem with Wilfrid Owen's war poetry. The work has become part of the way we remember war and its impact.

All this is very important because buried between the layers of our collective memory, somewhere, lies the truth, and if we suppress certain memories we suppress the truth. It is twenty-five years since the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing. We know about it in the West, but the generation of Chinese people who were born after the event know nothing about it all. It never happened as far as they were concerned. The inability to remember the truth can allow a certain kind of evil to reign as a seemingly benign influence in the world.

Of course, as Pilate said before Jesus, 'what is truth?' The paradox is, the more we discover the more there is very often left to learn. But we should not stop searching for the truth, and historians, artists, musicians and many others can help us re-discover the past so that we can be more healthily aware of our present. (And if you ask why this is important, just think of all those young Chinese people ignorant of a bloody episode in their recent history, the truth of which is actually a distortion of a greater truth.) And, remember, one of the activities of the Holy Spirit is to lead us into all truth, so there is a spiritual obligation to probe into the recesses of our memory, because, in so doing, we become more authentically who we are, remembering the bad things as well as the good, and not some selective version of ourselves, the version that the autobiography is desperate to tell you about.

We hope that the programme the Cathedral is laying on in the autumn concerning remembering the First World War is a contribution to this process of honouring our collective memory. In word, music and art we hope to shine a few more beams of light into the collective layering that is our past so that further elements of the truth of this cataclysmic and world-changing event can come to light.

Treasurer's Report: 1st January 2014 - 31st July 2014

Total balances as at:	31.7.2014	31.12.2013
	£	£
C.B.F.Accounts	General 7,127	113
	Fabric 6,076	6,062
	Capital 100	100
	13,303	6,275
Scottish Widows	33,439	33,305
Barclays Bank	6,448	8,363
Total	53,190	47,943

Outstanding Commitments:	Vergers black gowns	£855
	Truro Music Grant	£1,000

The increase in C.B.F. balances was the result of a transfer of £7,000 from Barclays Current account. The overall increase comes mainly from £4,561 Subscriptions and £1,031 Gift Aid.

Important Notice

Some people may have noticed that the Accounts in the Annual Report in May were mathematically incorrect. The problem arose during the transition from computer printout to publishing mode. One particular figure (-£200) on line "Prepayments and Accruals" bottom of page 1 of the Accounts was transferred from 2012 column to 2013 column. The result of this was that neither year added up correctly (one over one short).

A paper copy of the true Accounts as passed by Friends Council was presented to each attendee at the AGM and the acceptance of the Accounts was based on the paper copy not the copy in the Report. We apologise for this error and have amended our procedures to try to prevent future repetition.

Friends Coffee Morning

Come to greet old friends or meet new ones!

Dates:

October 8th
November 12th
December 10th
January 14th
February 11th
March 11th
April 8th

10am to 11.30am in the Pearson Room
at the rear of the Cathedral Office

*Donations for the Bring and Buy Stall or Raffle
always welcome*



Friends Autumn Meeting October 12th 2014

Lunch 12.00pm

(see separate menu and enclosed A5 booking form)

Meeting starts 1.45pm

Guest Speaker 2.15pm

Questions and refreshments 3.15pm

Our guest speaker is Stephen Tyrrell a well-known local historian and also a member of the Three Spires singers. Stephen has written many well-received books over the last few years on Cornish architectural history. With a reputation for delivering lectures in an entertaining, often highly amusing style, he will be giving a talk entitled "The Romans in Cornwall"

Friends 10% discount

Please note that in future you may be asked to produce a membership card to claim the discount in the restaurant and the shop. We are very sorry about this but it would appear that non-members have been claiming the discount, in some cases lapsed members or occasionally strangers hearing the magic words from the people in front of them in the queue.

If you do not have a membership card please contact the membership secretary who will be very pleased to send a new one to you.

Friends Annual General Meeting

May 17th 2015

Speaker will be Canon Perran Gay

(other commitments permitting - so don't be surprised if on the day it is actually Canon Lynda Barley)

The Lay Assistants.

The Guild of Lay Assistants to the Cathedral Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary in Truro - to give the full title - was formed on 29th January 1889 just over a year after the Cathedral was consecrated.

There were to be 24 Members who were to meet 20 minutes before Morning Prayer when prayers were said briefly and in addition there were occasional corporate Communion services at which a collection was taken. By March 1911 the Lay Assistants had accumulated £52 in their 'kitty' which was used to provide the cathedral with a sculptured panel on the gallery in the north transept - 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple'. Do look up when next you have coffee and maybe read the inscription on the pillar adjacent to the door to the Chapter House?

Of course times have changed. We now have 34 active Members, 6 on the non active or Emeritus' list and one living mainly in France! These days we start to arrive about an hour before a service and we no longer accumulate any money! Our principal function, of course, is to make people welcome, provide orders of service etc. open doors, prepare special seating arrangements, answer questions on a wide variety of subjects as well as garnering the collections. We attend at services throughout the week, including Evensong, some weddings and all funerals and other major occasions. There might be ten Lay Assistants on duty on a Sunday morning and about twenty one at the major services of Easter, and Christmas. Boxing Day is particularly welcome to those of us of more mature years!

We work closely with the Vergers particularly when medical help is necessary or when assisting with those who find the world too difficult unless viewed through a glass (or two !) We always enjoy entertaining the 'small people' in the narthex when they need somewhere to run about a bit and dealing with an unscheduled arrival of a coachload of overseas visitors can present a few interesting challenges.

One way and another there is great variety in the duties of a Lay Assistant.

Mark Evans.
Warden.

Truro Cathedral Restaurant and Coffee Shop

Fresh simple Cornish food using local seasonal ingredients

OPEN

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 4pm
Saturday 9.30am - 4pm

Serving breakfasts until 11am

Morning coffee

Lunches

Afternoon tea

10% discount available for Friends

The Restaurant is available for functions and parties.

Please contact the Restaurant Manager, Marilyn Trevelyan, on
01872 245011

or by e-mail: MarilynTrevelyan@trurocathedral.org.uk

The Cathedral Choir

The year ahead

At the 10.00am Eucharist on Sunday 7th September, we will install as Head Choristers four wonderful Year 8 boys: Harry Flint, James Lansdowne, Toby Pearce and William Thomas. These young musicians have worked consistently hard over the past four years to earn the right to wear their special blue medals and I will be immensely proud when they receive them. Toby's younger brother Ollie will receive his white surplice at the same service, as he completes his period as a Probationer and becomes a full Chorister.

Our new Organ Scholar will be James Orford, and he will be joined by tenors Charlie Hodgkiss and Peter Thomson. I am delighted that Jacob Dennison and Charlie Murray will be joining us as bass Lay Vicars.

The coming year will include a "live" DVD recording of Nine Lessons and Carols on 23rd December as well as a CD recording of music by Gabriel Jackson in May. We also have a live Radio 3 broadcast on 3rd June. The Cathedral Choir will also take a central role in the Cornwall Remembers week running up to Remembrance Sunday, and will join Three Spires Singers and Orchestra for Benjamin Britten's powerful War Requiem.

Scilly

After our usual round of services in Holy Week and Easter, the Choir travelled to the Isles of Scilly for a few days. The Scillonian crossing was smoother than we had dared hope, in both directions. The weather for almost the whole time we were there was sunny and warm, as was the reception we received in our concerts and services on St Mary's and St Agnes. I am grateful to Canon Paul Miller, Chaplain to the Isles of Scilly, for his meticulous organisation which enabled us to have such an enjoyable time.

The Summer Term

There were two special events in June. The first was the Summer Concert which featured music from both world wars, including a complete performance of the Missa Brevis by Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály.

Particularly moving for me was the Choristers' performance of a musical setting by Mark Blatchly of the famous Laurence Binyon poem *For the fallen* (a poem penned in North Cornwall). They conveyed with great emotion the bravery and nobleness of the young men who fell "with their faces to the foe", saving their most impassioned singing for the famous stanza "We shall grow not old as they that are left grow old". A week later, we staged a reconstruction of the service of Vespers from J S Bach's time in charge of music at St Thomas's Church in Leipzig, as it may have taken place around 1730. The Choir had to learn a great deal of music, much of it in German, especially for this event which proved very popular indeed. They sang a beautiful anthem *Jauchzet dem Herren* by Heinrich Schütz, but the highlight came in the form of two cantatas by J S Bach, both performed with orchestra: *Nun danket alle Gott* and *Sei Lob und Ehr dem höchsten Gut*. I am grateful to the outstanding orchestral players who waived their usual professional fees to enable

this service to take place. I am also grateful to my colleague Luke Bond whose organ solos (half a dozen substantial pieces by Bach) punctuated the service so effectively. It is testament to the exceptional talent of our current team of singers that all of the demanding solo numbers were taken by members of the Cathedral Choir.

New CD

As well as the Choir's regular round of singing at services (usually six each week during term time) and everything above, we managed to squeeze in a CD recording which took place over four evenings in May and is scheduled for release in October/November. The music charts a journey through World War I and includes all six of Parry's *Songs of Farewell* (1915-18), Alan Gray's mini song cycle *1914* (1915), the *Short Requiem* by Walford Davies (1915), Stanford's anthem *For lo, I raise up* (1914) and Vaughan Williams' masterpiece *Lord, thou has been our refuge* (1921). There is something magical about the connection the Choir has with this music. I hope it will come over on the recorded sound and that the CD will be testament to the skill and dedication of the Choristers, Lay Vicars and Choral Scholars who invest so much of their lives in maintaining our very special tradition.

The Classical Press

The Cathedral Choir is particularly fortunate with its national profile at the moment. Two tracks from our CD of music by Philip Stopford (2012) are currently in the Classic FM Hall of Fame and are receiving regular air time; and our webcasts ("live" recordings of services) which the Friends so generously supported have clocked up nearly 120,000 track plays from people in 120 countries around the world.

I leave the final word to critics who wrote the following reviews of our most recent CD, released earlier this academic year:

On this showing Christopher Gray's Truro Choir has little to fear in comparison with the finest cathedral choirs in the country. The singing brings enormous pleasure, as does Luke Bond's magnificent organ playing.
(International Record Review)

The Truro Cathedral Choir under the tireless direction of Christopher Gray give outstanding performances, with a satisfying equality of balance and tone between the boys and the men. Luke Bond's colourful accompaniments and Gary Cole's typically superb recording add to the listening pleasure of this truly outstanding CD.
(Gramophone)

What an explosion of wonderful music-making is taking place in Truro! The artistic partnership of Christopher Gray, Luke Bond and the singers is one that should be a cause for unbridled rejoicing throughout cathedral and church music circles, and beyond.
(Cathedral Music Magazine)

Christopher Gray

FRIENDS AUTUMN MEETING LUNCH MENU

*Welcoming orange juice
or mulled apple juice*

*

*Roast Topside of Beef
or*

*Roast Breast of Chicken
with*

*Seasonal Vegetables - Roast and buttered
New Potatoes*

*

*Sweet Potato, Butternut Squash
and Pumpkin Wellington
with a Tomato Concasse*

*

*Blackberry Cheesecake with
Ginger Crunch Topping and
White Chocolate Sauce*

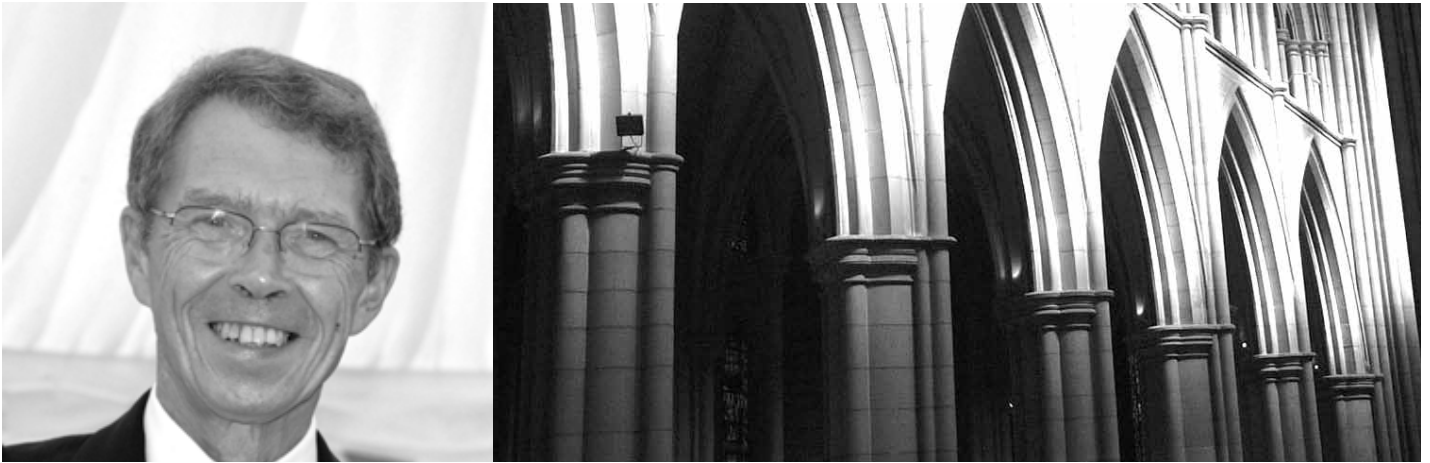
or

*Apple & Pear Strudel with
Vanilla Ice-Cream*

*

Tea or Coffee





Message from the Chairman

It is an honour to have been elected your Chairman at the AGM in May, particularly as I only recently became a member of Council and am a relative newcomer to Cornwall though not to the southwest and cathedrals. Since then I have enjoyed learning about the full range of activities, events and support for the Cathedral organised by the Friends. I have also gained a much better understanding of how they are such an important part of the social fabric of the Cathedral community and a key element in supporting the life and mission of the Cathedral in Cornwall and further afield.

On your behalf I would like to thank both Bob Foulkes and Pam Macleod, my predecessor as Chairman and our former Secretary respectively, who both retired at the last AGM. Over a large number of years they have devoted much of their time and effort running and guiding the Friends to where the organisation is today – we owe them much. My wish together with members of both Council and the various Friends' committees is to build on what has been entrusted to us. I am confident this will be the case given the skills, talent and commitment of these people. We do, however, following Pam's retirement, still need a Secretary of Council – ideally someone who has administrative skills and can take meeting minutes but there is no reason why these roles cannot be split. If any of you can offer help in this regard or have ideas please contact Mary Prior (our Treasurer and a former Secretary of the Friends), myself or any member of Council either directly or via the Friends' office. In the meantime the role of secretary is being covered by Mary Prior and me.

For those of you who do not know me, I am married to Lynda who is the Canon Pastor. We met as undergraduates at the University of York before both following postgraduate studies at University College London. I am semi-retired but remain actively involved in educating and developing the critical skills of people working in the financial services sector as well as providing advice to providers of Social Housing on matters concerning long term finance. We have three adult children, one newly married and one recently engaged.

Over the last couple of years much work has been done by Chris Rowe, Mary Prior and Mark Evans (to name just three) on our membership database to ensure its accuracy. I am grateful for all their efforts on this task which has made administration of the Friends easier, especially when communicating with members and sending out subscription reminders (which is currently being set up for those wishing to pay by cheque) in a timely manner. We are also aware that many members, particularly those who are not regular worshippers at the Cathedral or who do not live close to Truro, would value receiving information and reports of Friends' activities and our support of the Cathedral via the internet. Consequently we are beginning, together with the Cathedral Office, to investigate how this can best be realised. This will lead to either revamping our existing website or creating a brand new one. We will update you on progress at the autumn meeting and notify you when our presence on the web is relaunched.

I know it is difficult for many, particularly for those who live outside Cornwall, to participate in the activities of the Friends but we all have in common a love for the glorious building which is Truro Cathedral and share concern for its mission and life. Your support continues to be valued greatly as it enhances both the scale and scope of the projects we can fund. If you are visiting the Cathedral do make yourself known and remember that presentation of your membership card entitles you to a 10% discount at both the Cathedral shop and restaurant.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the autumn meeting on Sunday 12th October and getting to know more of you over the coming months.

Chris Barley, Chairman

Report on Fund-Raising and Social Activities Summer 2014

The highlight of the summer has been our usual Boat Trip down from Truro to St Mawes on 1 July. Once again the boat was full to the brim and the sun shone. Peter Hewson, who organises everything so magnificently for us, must have a Hot Line to the Weather Man. Together with a dog, a baby, young Amelia Rose, and almost eighty other enthusiasts, we talked our way down the river, topped up at the pub in St Mawes, and talked our way back in the dusk towards the floodlit spires of our beautiful Cathedral.

Roberta and Mark Evans had a tea party in their lovely garden in June, with another in September for those who missed the first one. We hope the sun will shine then too!

And then also in September, 25 of us are off to the Minack to see Dickens' Great Expectations. Needless to say, our expectations of the weather are mixed, but hopeful.

Coffee mornings continue on the second Wednesday of each month, and we are very grateful to Angela and Ian Hare who have taken over as chief coffee-makers and welcomers. We are always delighted to see absolutely everyone and anyone at these events, so if you haven't been, do join us in the Pearson Room (entrance opposite the Cathedral car park) between 10.00 and 11.30am. Rosemary Edmonds always magics up treasures to sell on the bring-and-buy table, plus lots of books, and there is a raffle.

The autumn brings the start-up of monthly Beetle Drives in the Cathedral Restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month. These will be master-minded by Pauline Sansom and Roberta Evans, and will be full of thrills and laughter – and tea! Get yourself a ticket and come! Also our Film Club will meet monthly in the Pearson Room, for a wide variety of films – find out more from the Friends Office (or at the coffee table on Sunday mornings).

Then watch out for further news of our 2015 pantomime, *Puss in Boots*. This will rival any other production in Cornwall for the promise of a fun-packed evening!! It will take place on 23 and 24 January in the Cathedral Restaurant.

We all thank Roberta Evans so much for her tireless and meticulous management of our fund-raising and social events over many years. Roberta has asked for a rest from this busy job, but we shall hope to carry on her fantastic work as best we can, and to welcome her to lots of our activities. Thank you Roberta!

And to the rest of you – see you soon!

Beetle Drives:
Wed 1st October
Wed 5th November
Wed 7th January
Wed 4th February
Wed 4th March

Joy Reynolds



Truro Cathedral Shop

Our new exciting Cathedral gift range is unlike anything you will see anywhere else.

We have locally produced fudge, biscuits and chocolate all with our stunning Cathedral packaging. Why not check out our beautiful collection of Cathedral ceramics in distinct designs that will brighten any home and make the ideal gift?

Friends of the Cathedral will receive a 10% discount.
Summer opening Monday to Saturday 10 am-5pm

“A Gift is for Giving”

We Will Remember...

Ivor Gurney

The Silent One (1917)

Who died on the wires, and hung there, one of two—
Who for his hours of life had chattered through
Infinite lovely chatter of Bucks accent:
Yet faced unbroken wires; stepped over, and went
A noble fool, faithful to his stripes— and ended.
But I weak, hungry, and willing only for the chance
Of line— to fight in the line, lay down under unbroken
Wires, and saw the flashes and kept unshaken,
Till the politest voice— a finicking accent, said:
'Do you think you might crawl through there: there's a hole.'
Darkness shot at: I smiled, as politely replied—
'I'm afraid not, Sir.' There was no hole no way to be seen,
Nothing but chance of death, after tearing of clothes.
Kept flat, and watched the darkness, hearing bullets whizzing—
And thought of music— and swore deep heart's deep oaths
(Polite to God) and retreated and came on again,
Again retreated— and a second time faced the screen.



Wilfred Owen

The Send-Off (1918)

Down the close, darkening lanes they sang their way
To the siding-shed,
And lined the train with faces grimly gay.
Their breasts were stuck all white with wreath and spray
As men's are, dead.

Dull porters watched them, and a casual tramp
Stood staring hard,
Sorry to miss them from the upland camp.
Then, unmoved, signals nodded, and a lamp
Winked to the guard.

So secretly, like wrongs hushed-up, they went.
They were not ours:
We never heard to which front these were sent.

Nor there if they yet mock what women meant
Who gave them flowers.

Shall they return to beatings of great bells
In wild trainloads?
A few, a few, too few for drums and yells,
May creep back, silent, to still village wells
Up half-known roads.

