

The Friends of the City Churches ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS Review of the Year 2008-09

I am pleased to report another busy and successful year for the Friends, as recorded in the detailed sections below. The elected members of the Executive Committee, all Trustees, have been fully occupied in consequence. The Committee meets monthly during the year (except in December). We would welcome interest from other members of the Friends who have the time and appropriate skills to make an effective contribution to the work of the Committee.

Membership

At 31 March 2009 there were 1144 members of the Friends, a continuation of the upward trend of recent years.

Administration

Our thanks go to Karen Chester, who continues to be the mainstay of the organisation as Office Administrator. Her work is greatly appreciated by all the Friends. Karen is normally in the office at St Magnus on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings: at other times the answerphone takes messages on 0207-626-1555.

Accommodation

The Irish Genealogical Research Society continues to share our large room, with regular meetings there on Saturdays. We have re-arranged things in our smaller room to increase efficiency, which has also been helped by the purchase of a more powerful computer.

We are most grateful to The Reverend Philip Warner, the incumbent at St Magnus, and Nick Sargent the verger for their help and friendship. It makes our life a great deal easier.

Church Watching

We continue to provide "church watchers" to certain churches in the City, to allow them to be open to the public when otherwise they would not be. The number of such churches increased by one during the year to reach a total of fourteen. We were glad to be able to return to St Benet, Paul's Wharf following the conclusion of the Bishop's Visitation; we now watch there every Thursday instead of twice a month. By the end of the year we had some eighty volunteers in the Watchers' group, and some undertake lengthy journeys to "watch". We are deeply grateful to them for their time and enthusiasm. Anyone who feels they could undertake this duty is very welcome to apply to join the group and we encourage them to do so.

Ever since the revival of The Friends our most public support to the churches has been the watchers. As reported this has grown from just one church initially to now fourteen with others knocking on our door. This now involves some 93 watchers providing on average some 116 hours of watching a week. Melba Coombs from the moment she was persuaded to become involved took on the task of finding and organising the teams of watchers. Her calm but firm manner at all times has driven this expansion. She has charmed difficult incumbents and others who seem to think they own 'their' church so that now we are even being consulted on the very future of these churches. We are all incredibly grateful for the unstinting resolve she has shown over the years. Having gently pulled back over the last years she has decided to hand over the reins to David Salter. At a special event at St Peter Cornhill on 26th March when the Bishop addressed the Friends, special presentations were made to Melba to mark the warm affection we all feel for her and as thanks for her long and inspired service. The Friends gave her a cheque, and the Bishop presented her with the Miletus Medal, an award in his own private gift to those who have given outstanding service to the church.

Programme of Events

Walks. The two City Churches Walks Days in the year under review were both based at St Mary Aldermary. The church is well situated for this role and we are most grateful to The Reverend John Mothersole for his welcome and help. We shall be there again in the coming

summer. The pattern of one Walks Day during the week and one on a Saturday continued to be popular.

Guided walks were again organised for members and their friends round many of the City churches and gardens. Our thanks go to the volunteer guides who lead these walks, which are greatly enjoyed by those who take part. They are so popular that they are always fully booked, and where the demand is particularly great we try and repeat the walk after a short interval. Slightly different excursions were organised to visit the three churches which host artwork by Hans Feibusch, the City and Abbey of St Albans, the "lost London" exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery, and the Great Model and Library at St Paul's Cathedral. The Chairman's day tour in September was focused on North Kent and was thoroughly enjoyed. As reported above, in March a hundred or so Friends attended an afternoon with the Bishop at St Peter Cornhill, joined in a tribute to Melba, and enjoyed tea and cake.

Services. The annual Carol Service was held at St Benet, Paul's Wharf in December whilst it was subject to a Bishop's Visitation. As usual the church was bitterly cold, but this persuaded the congregation to sing all the more lustily. We were most grateful to the Archdeacon of London, the Ven. Peter Delaney, for taking the service for us and sharing the privation!

Newsletters

Four newsletters were published during the year ranging from four pages to sixteen. Colour continues to enhance their presentation and usefulness, with different colourways being used each time. Our printers now collate and despatch as well as print the newsletter- this is a speedier process than hitherto and also absolves volunteers from the boring job of tipping in and stuffing 950 envelopes!

Merchandise

New FCC mugs bearing our name and logo were ordered and delivered during the year, to be added to our range of merchandise for sale at events. They are too fragile to be sent off by post, but members can collect them from the office if they send their order in advance. It was also decided to purchase A-signboards for each watched church, to be displayed when watchers were on duty. These were delivered and are now being distributed to churches.

"City Events"

The production and distribution of "City Events" has settled down well. The broadsheet remains very popular, and is now available through the special "City Events" website as well as in printed form at all City churches and libraries. The website also has details of watched churches, weekend services in the City, and events at churches just outside the City boundary.

Befriending the churches

The Befrienders scheme remains in place, though not all churches in the City have had befrienders appointed. If anyone is interested in this role they should check with the Secretary what churches remain to be befriended. A general meeting of befrienders was held in March, when experiences were shared and discussed. The essence of the role is to become part of the individual church community with an earmark as a link to the Friends, so it is essentially low-key and long-term.

Finally I must record the deep thanks of the FCC to the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Area Dean, for yet another year of unfailing support and understanding. At the same time, my thanks go to all the volunteers who work so hard for the Friends, to whom any success we achieve is due.

Oliver Leigh Wood
Chairman
3 June 2009

The Friends of the City Churches

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year ended 31st March 2009

The accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2009 have been signed, after an independent examination by Chris Simmons of Messrs Rodrigues and Co of Wimbledon.

Taking all income and expenditure together this has been another satisfactory year with a surplus of £7623 on our day to day affairs.

INCOME

Our income from subscriptions remains stable.

The rental income from the Irish Genealogical Society offsets the expenditure on rent.

Gift Aid ,such an important part of our income, was similar to last year. However the fourth quarter's refund of £1075 was not received from the Inland Revenue until 2nd April 2009 and will therefore appear in next year's accounts

Interest on investments is expected to halve in 2009/10.

Members events are planned to make a small profit (and not a loss!). This year our visits were usually fully subscribed and in addition our Guides often gave their time free of charge. In future years we may not be so fortunate. Much of the effort and cost of our new administrator was applied in servicing these various activities.

Our present stock value is mainly in the splendid ties and the new mugs. These are valued at cost.

EXPENDITURE

Our general running costs are much in line with the previous year.

The significant increase in expenditure on church watching reflects our increased activity in helping to keep the city churches open. New alarms and batteries for watchers and publicity boards outside open churches have been bought and paid for within this year's accounts.

The membership and the variety of events for our members have significantly increased over recent years.

This has been the first full year with a part time administrator. With the increased activity by the Friends has come the need to increase the hours worked by Karen Chester , our able Administrator.

The surplus for the year from our general activities is satisfactory. However with the likely halving of income from interest and the potential of paying fees for our guides at events we will have to continue to watch our costs carefully.

OTHER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

During the year The Friends took over from the Archdeacon's office the production of the broadsheet " City Events". The remaining balance of Archdeaconal funds earmarked for this activity was transferred to our account.

Our donations include £2108 kindly donated to the Friends on the closing of the Friends of St Botolph Church.

Grants to City Churches of £14,465 were made during the year. This includes money set aside in previous financial years.

BALANCE SHEET

Our money on deposit is all with the C.B.F. Church of England Deposit earning a satisfactory rate of interest.

There is £108,696 on deposit with £4009 in the bank account.

SUMMARY

The Friends of City Churches is running its day to day activities just within its means. A careful watch will be kept throughout the year on our expenditure and with the knowledge that with lower bank interest rates our investment income will fall and the cost of running our various events may increase.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It gives me great pleasure to formally acknowledge the considerable day to day assistance I have received from our Administrator, Karen Chester.

Our Independent Examiner, Chris Simmons has once again been very helpful with his advice and efficient signing off of the Financial Statement.

Derek Tynan (Hon. Treasurer)

28 May 2008

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES

(Registered Charity No. 1050091)

Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31st March 2009

**The Church of St.Magnus the Martyr,
Lower Thames Street,
London EC3R 6DN**

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31st March 2009

	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2008</u>
Incoming Resources				
Donations		4,997	4,997	3,443
Income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects		19,131	19,131	12,887
Investment Income		5,428	5,428	6,014
Subscriptions		15,945	15,945	15,553
Tax Refunds		2,595	2,595	2,505
Total Incoming Resources	<u>0</u>	<u>48,096</u>	<u>48,096</u>	<u>40,402</u>
Resources Expended				
Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	4,539	2,818	7,357	0
Grants Payable		0	0	8,608
Costs of generating funds		7,392	7,392	7,902
Management & Administration		23,750	23,750	18,115
Total Resources Expended	<u>4,539</u>	<u>33,960</u>	<u>38,499</u>	<u>34,625</u>
Net Incoming Resources	<u>-4,539</u>	<u>14,136</u>	<u>9,597</u>	<u>5,777</u>
Transfers & Provisions	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>-4,539</u>	<u>14,136</u>	<u>9,597</u>	<u>-4,223</u>
Funds brought forward	<u>4,539</u>	<u>90,010</u>	<u>94,549</u>	<u>98,772</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>0</u>	<u>104,146</u>	<u>104,146</u>	<u>94,549</u>

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES

Income & Expenditure Account For the year ended 31st March 2009

<u>2007/8</u>			<u>2008/9</u>		
£	£	£	£	£	£
15,553					15,945
5,000					5,000
		210	Bank Interest Received	66	
		2,505	Gift Aid Tax Refund	2,595	
8,519		5,804	Interest on Investments	5,362	8,023
			Members' events:		
		9,701	Income	11,393	
4,189		5,512	Less Expenses	5,177	6,216
			Sales of merchandise		
		594	Opening Stock	2,195	
		3,991	Expenditure	696	
		4,585		2,891	
		2,195	Less Closing Stock	2,062	
	2,390		Cost of sales		829
	3,186		Sales	2,018	
796			Net Income from Sales:		1,189
34,057			TOTAL INCOME		36,373
			Less Office Costs:		
		6,500	Rent	6,500	
		532	Insurance	474	
		2,315	Postage, Telephone & Stationery	2,436	
		4,850	Photocopying, Website & Newsletter	5,344	
		2,232	Miscellaneous office equipment	1,446	
		143	Churchwatchers	1,836	
		444	Refreshments	689	
		198	Bank Charges	15	
		529	Professional Fees	541	
		13	Miscellaneous, Fees & Subscriptions	83	
23,115		5,359	Administrator	9,387	28,750
10,942			Surplus for the year		7,623
			OTHER INCOME		
			City Events - Income	5,720	
			- Expenses	1,386	4,334
		2,226	Donations	4,997	
3,443		1,217	St Magnus Bell Appeal	0	4,997
14,385					9,331
			LESS OTHER EXPENDITURE		16,954
		0	Donations & Presentations	2,818	
		1,500	Grants to Churches	0	
		7,108	Provisions for Grants	0	
9,825		1,217	Members' donations to St.M Bell Appeal	0	2,818
4,560			CARRIED TO BALANCE SHEET		14,136

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES

Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2009

<u>2007/8</u>		<u>2008/9</u>
	<u>ASSETS</u>	
108,334	Deposit - Central Board of Finance	108,696
2,195	Stock of Promotional items	2,062
<u>1,737</u>	Balance at Bank	<u>4,009</u>
112,266	ASSETS	114,767
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
<u>609</u>	609 Sundry Creditors	<u>621</u>
111,657	ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	114,146
	<u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>	
10,000	Provision for Sword Rest Project	10,000
<u>7,108</u>	Provision for Church Grants	<u>0</u>
17,108		10,000
<u>94,549</u>	TOTAL ASSETS LESS TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>104,146</u>
	Financed by:	
	<u>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</u>	
85,450	Balance brought forward	90,010
<u>4,560</u>	Surplus for the year	<u>14,136</u>
90,010		104,146
	<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>	
<u>4,539</u>	Provision for St.Magnus Bell Appeal	<u>0</u>
4,539		0
<u>94,549</u>		<u>104,146</u>
	Signed	
	D F Tynan Esq.	Trustee
	Dated:	