

SKYLINE



February 2017

Photo David Jessop



ST MARY ABCHURCH REVEALED

The City is forever providing new views as buildings are torn down and replaced by newer ones. Now it's the turn of Transport for London to demolish the east side of Abchurch Lane to make way for a new exit to the revamped Bank station.

Tony Tucker points out that this view was probably last revealed when the Luftwaffe demolished the White Hart public house 135-141 Cannon Street, on 8 September 1940 (which also damaged St Mary Abchurch of course).

LIQUID HISTORY: THE PUBS OF FLEET STREET

Tuesday 14 March

10.45 for 11am

£9

Walk with City Guide Jill Finch
Meet at TfL ticket hall, Blackfriars Station, Queen Victoria Street EC4V 4DY

Fleet Street, once known as the 'street of ink', was famous for its journalists, writers, publishers and printers, all of whom loved to drink in the street where they worked. The newspapers may have gone but many of the pubs are still there. This walk tells the story of some of the more famous (and infamous) drinking dens in Fleet Street's liquid history (and, of course, ends in a pub).

WATCHERS' MEETING

29 March 10 for 10.30am

St Magnus the Martyr

GUIDED TOUR OF THE CHARTERHOUSE

Wednesday 12 April

1.30 for 1.45pm

£15

Meet at Main entrance, The Charterhouse, Charterhouse Square, EC1M 6AN

The fascinating story of the Charterhouse begins in 1348, encompassing mediaeval monks and Elizabethan courtiers before Thomas Sutton created his almshouse in 1611. Our guided tour will include the Great Hall (where the modern Brothers eat), the Great Chamber (where Elizabeth I held court), the mediaeval Wash-house Court, and the opulent Master's Court.

After the tour, the adjacent Malmaison London hotel (18-21 Charterhouse Square) offers cream tea in their lounge for the special rate of £10 per person, or a prix fixe meal for £19.95 (two courses) or £24.95 (three courses); please book on **020 7012 3717**, quoting 'Charterhouse Tour'.

THE LIVERY & THE CHURCH 6: TALLOW CHANDLERS' HALL & ST STEPHEN WALBROOK

Monday 8 May

10.45 for 11am

£15

Visit with City Guide Jill Finch
Meet outside Cannon Street Station, corner of Dowgate Hill, EC4N 6AP

Formed in the C14, the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers has occupied a site on Dowgate Hill since 1476. Their third hall is Grade I Listed; built in 1672 after the Great Fire, it survived the Blitz and is one of the few livery halls to remain largely unchanged. After a tour of the hall, we will make our way to **St Stephen Walbrook** to look at one of Christopher Wren's most beautiful churches.

CITY OF ANGELS

Wednesday 10 May

10.45 for 11am

£9

Walk with City Guide Alexandra Epps
Meet at St Mary Abchurch EC4N 7BA (Bank or Cannon Street stations)

In this celestial walk, City Guide Alexandra Epps will celebrate seraphim, cherubim, archangels and fallen angels on memorials, monuments and public art. Creations ranging from the hand-crafted to the high tech, from the minute to the monumental, in stained glass, marble and even stainless steel are all hidden within the historic streets, secret gardens and beautiful churches of the City.

TRUMP STREET

It may be topical (and that's why we include it now) but no, it's nothing to do with the new US President not even with the street being close to Russia Row. Gossip on

CITY OF SPIRES: WREN'S BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES

Wednesday 17 May

10.45 for 11am

£9

Walk with City Guide Linda Hamer
Meet at entrance of St Bride, Fleet Street EC4Y 8AU

The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed 86 of 107 mediaeval churches in the City of London. Under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren, regarded as the most influential architect of all time, 51 were rebuilt and today 23 survive. This tour introduces some of Wren's masterpieces, each with its own story to tell, and illustrates the extraordinary breadth of his skill and vision.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: ICON AND INSPIRATION

Thursday 25 May

2.30pm (doors open 2.15pm)

£10

Talk by City Guide Alexandra Epps
St Mary Abchurch

The rebuilding of the bomb-damaged Coventry Cathedral is a symbol of peace and reconciliation; its inspiring commitment to the modern is extraordinary. This lavishly illustrated lecture looks at the work of the many world-class artists associated with its treasures, including Jacob Epstein, Elisabeth Frink, John Piper and Graham Sutherland amongst others.

ADVANCE NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 27 June

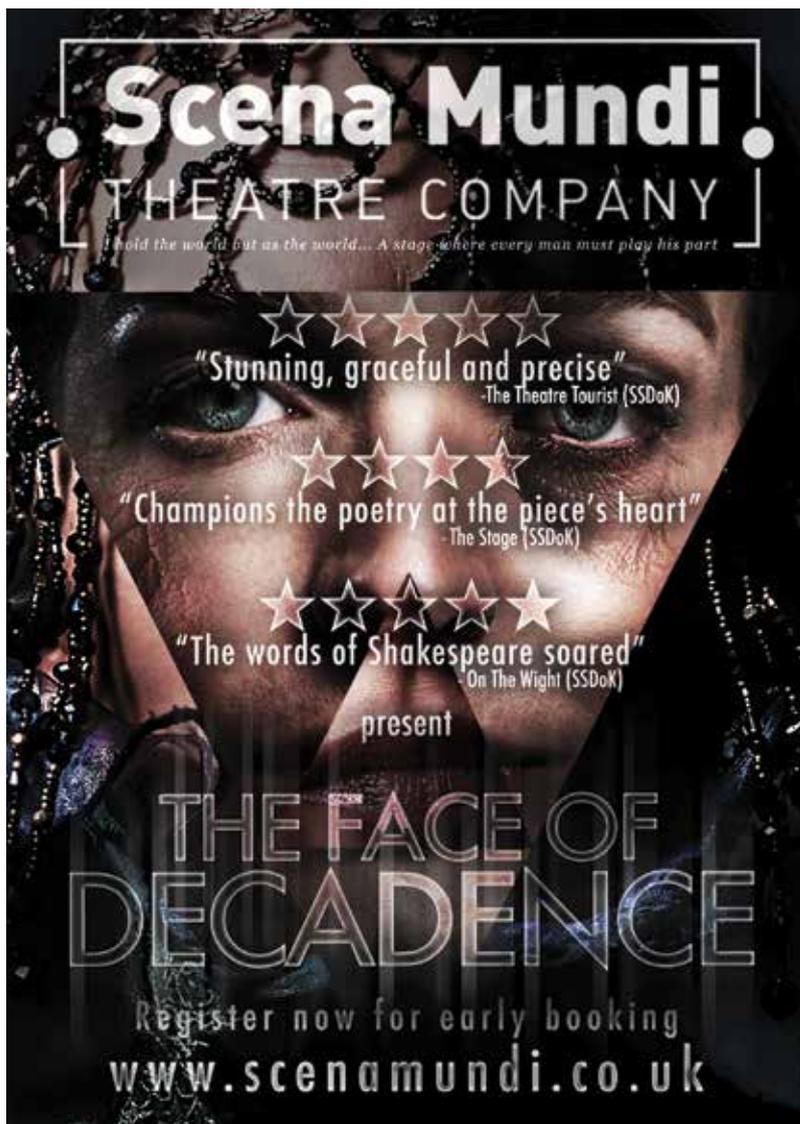
3.30pm

St Mary Abchurch

the street is that it is named for trumpet making and there was a pub on nearby Lawrence Lane called *The Trumpeter*.



THE DRAW WILL BE ON MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO CATCH THIS DATE, ANY EVENTS NOT FULLY SUBSCRIBED WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR LATER APPLICATIONS



TREASURER'S TROVE?

Neil Graham, our Treasurer, has a reminder for us all...

Members should please ensure that they are paying their annual subscriptions at the correct rates, which since 1 August 2015 have been £20 (single) or £25 (joint). This mainly affects standing order payers who joined prior to August 2015. We do not operate direct debits. So the initiative to change to the correct rate has to come from Members. We are in the process of recovering any arrears due, but of course it is more helpful if you make the change before we get to you!

A further message for those paying their subscription by cheque: over recent months many of you unfortunately will not have received any reminder for your subscription renewal, for which the Treasurer must offer his humble apologies. Unless you have paid, we will be contacting you by post in the near future so that your subscription status may be brought up to date.

EDITORIAL

Spring (we hope) is lurking round the corner as we go to press and with it the roll out of a new year. There are changes afoot though. The retirement of Bishop Richard (p11) and the decisions on his successor fall to a Vacancy in See Committee whose 53 members will set out the needs of the diocese, before submitting their wishes to the Crown Nominations Commission of the General Synod and then that will send two names to the Prime Minister and finally one to the Queen. It makes our AGM (27 June p2) look so easy! But we need two Trustees to replace those retiring (p5) and this is where you can help. Are you willing to pick up the gauntlet and bring fresh blood to this important body?

Elsewhere we celebrate the work of St Ethelburga's Centre (p8,9), look back at a service in support of City Farms (p9) on the very day that avian flu struck Europe and HM Government demanded all poultry to be kept indoors; explore a possible forerunner of the PFI that blights our hospitals (p7) and record the short life and death of a Scots Guardsman (p10,11) New merchandise, the closure of an historic institution and a request for a piano join book reviews, City church news and a reminder of the long support of one of our Friends complete this edition.

We march on hoping that the next bishop will be as good a friend of the City churches as Bishop Richard.

Paul Simmons

THE MUSICIANS' CHAPEL WINDOWS IN ST SEPULCHRE



composers Walter Carroll and John Ireland, the latter by Brian Thomas, who was also responsible for the fine windows in **St Vedast**. Thomas also designed St Sepulchre's Dame Nellie Melba window, which features the Australian soprano's head with typically flamboyant hair, along with the witty inclusion of two peaches in the bottom corner, reminding us of the dish named after her.

The ashes of Sir Henry Wood, founder of the Promenade Concerts, lie beneath this window, which was designed by Gerald Smith and installed in 1946. Wood learnt to play the organ in St Sepulchre at the age of 10 and was appointed Assistant Organist at 14. If you look closely at the lower part of the window, you can see depictions of him playing the organ as a boy and also conducting a promenade concert.

Many City churches have exceptionally fine stained glass in their windows, mostly designed by the highly talented artists who helped to restore the churches in the post-war era.

St Sepulchre boasts some of the best examples, particularly in the windows of the Musicians' Chapel. These include windows dedicated to

My favourite, however, is the window dedicated to St Cecilia, patron saint of music. Below the figure of the saint stand Bach, Handel, Byrd and Purcell. Handel lived in London for many years and played regularly on the famous C17/18 Harris/Byfield organ in the church, as did Samuel Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn.

St Sepulchre, rebuilt many times over the centuries, is an interesting mixture of architectural styles from mediaeval to C19, but its modern windows visually demonstrate why it has acquired the sobriquet of the *Musicians Church*.

Tony Tucker



TEXTILE CONSERVATION

The Mothers' Union banner in **St Mary Abchurch** has been conserved and was rededicated by Bishop Richard after the Carol Service.

Sophie Long, who undertook the work which took approx 92 hours, was trained at the Royal School of Needlework. It involved removing the backing fabric, couching down all loose threads and re-working a number of gold threads throughout the design.

A new piece of silk was applied to the main sections, where the pillars are and the floral motif below. Additional silk was needed for the robes; all these fabrics were stitched down with gold couching around them. All lifting fabrics were secured and the lining material re-attached.

Donations to our Textile fund are encouraged from Friends interested in this aspect of our grant-making.



The Mothers' Union banner before



...and after

Oliver Leigh-Wood

YOUR ORGANISATION NEEDS ... YOU!

LIZ SIMPSON

For a membership organisation to remain lively, viable and reflective of its membership's expectations, and those of the wider community, it must maintain a balance between a stable 'management' and the necessary introduction of 'new blood'.

The Friends of the City Churches has now reached one of those critical stages as Trustees move on to new challenges, and we are inviting the membership to consider how they might contribute to the on-going work of our organisation.

Our archives First of all, we would be delighted to hear from any members who have a background in, or interest in, library or archive services. Over the years the FCC has amassed files of archive documents, leaflets and other articles related to our City churches and we need help assessing them, deciding the best way to organise and store them – or even whether we should donate them to another organisation which would be better placed to make them publicly accessible.

New Trustees The FCC Trustees are very much 'working Trustees' and it is through their efforts that membership events and services are planned, Church-Watching is organised, publications and merchandise are designed and sold and the FCC grows in its scope and activities. At our AGM in June there will be at least two Trustee vacancies, including that of Honorary Secretary, so we are inviting any Friends who might be interested in becoming a Trustee to make themselves known either to our administrator Karen Hearn or the current Honorary Secretary, Liz Simpson via our Office, to find out more about the work of the Trustees, or to come to a monthly meeting as an observer to meet the committee and see how we work.

Designer Do you have design skills yourself, or know someone who does? From time to time we review how we design, put together and print our popular magazine *Skyline*, and we are considering this at the moment. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone offering the necessary skills who would like to contribute to this, most visible, aspect of the work of the Friends of the City Churches.

And in terms of items rather than people, Trustee David Jessop, our Church Manager, writes: *We do need a decent piano in Abchurch - upright or grand. And we need a piano moving trolley too. Does anyone have any ideas where we might source one or have you one sitting at home that you no longer play?* Please contact David via the Office.

WATCHERS' NEWS

BRIAN EVANS
WATCHING CO-ORDINATOR

The Handbook at every Watched Church was introduced by my predecessor, David Salter, in 2009, working with Melvyn Jeremiah. Rota information regularly updated, their careful work remains valid. Building on it, in an ongoing review, we are introducing a new contents sheet to highlight any individual security incident plans; perhaps the most important change since 2009. And we are rationalising the church history contents; we are grateful to Mary Fraser for identifying relevant articles in FCC Newsletters.

Meanwhile, springtime heralds another Watchers' Meeting. Time to record John Reynolds' key role in this connection, maintaining our comprehensive Watchers' Directory and translating sometimes indecipherable names to send rotas for printing. He does this having just completed work on the latest *City Events!* We start again at **St Magnus the Martyr** at the usual time (10 am for 10.30) on 29 March 2017. See you then.

WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY TO CLOSE

A much loved institution is closing in May when Alan Hughes, the last in a line of bell founders stretching back to 1420, retires and the building is sold. In fact, the hope is that the business will continue but on another site and under new ownership. We can ill afford to lose this treasure- there is only one other in England – Taylors of Loughborough- and that firm itself was saved from liquidation in 2009. It has an equally long history starting with Johannes de Stafford in the C14, who was also a mayor of Leicester. The Taylor family became involved in 1784.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry had originally been sited in Whitechapel for easy access to the river and being on the eastern edge of the City, the prevailing wind could blow away the smells of manufacturing. Bells are not now moved by river (although those of **St James Garlickhythe** were a recent exception!)

No doubt health and safety issues didn't help as those who have visited will attest. We look forward to hearing more information in due course.

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JUDY STEPHENSON

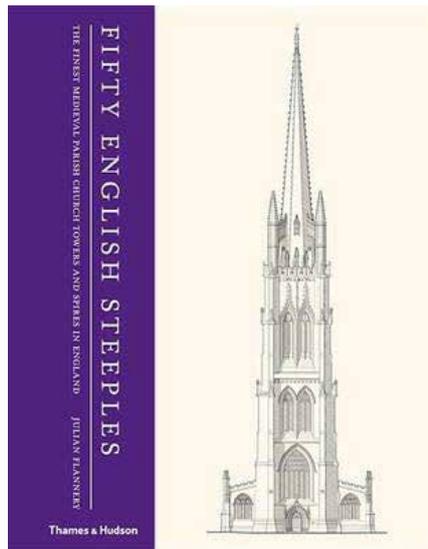
50 English Steeples
by Julian Flannery
Thames and Hudson 496pp
ISBN-13: 978-0500343142
Price £50

The Finest Medieval Parish Church Towers and Spires in England is the helpful subtitle: so no cathedrals. A steeple is the generic term for the tower and its component spire if it has one. The author assures us that *First and foremost, this is a book about architecture written by an architect. It does not pretend to be a general history of medieval church architecture. Simon Jenkins hails it: the church steeple is the glory of the English Landscape... At last it has achieved its biographer.*

This is a compilation of amazing newly drawn plans. All measurements have been newly taken, three times over with a theodolite. The measurements are a surprise: spires have gained or lost several feet from the traditionally accepted height. The drawings are clear and precise. The photographs disappointing (but I am not an architect). I suspect the production of the book required only one type of paper, and the exigencies of the drawings prevailed over the enhancement of the photographs.

There is useful map which shows the Great Limestone Belt – Somerset to Yorkshire via the Cotswolds. Naturally where the most suitable stone was abundant the steeples rose: some with, most without spires. The influence of the cathedrals is acknowledged and that of the Cambridge chapels, but barely a mention of the City of dreaming spires.

The book considers building techniques and variety; fashion and durability; purpose and evolution. It is a book which requires meticulous study: as with all things the more you put in, the more you will gain.



NICHOLAS JACOB

Julian Flannery's book is above all a work of great scholarship and a labour of love. The scale of the undertaking is truly remarkable and there is much to admire, not least the meticulous measured drawings which are a delight; these together with the photographs celebrate and reveal the astonishing inventiveness and variety of this mediaeval art form which is scattered across the country. It should appeal not only to those involved in the care and study of mediaeval churches but also anyone who has a deep interest, or better still a passion for them. The reviewer falls into this category and so enjoyed reading the lengthy introduction and dipping into the detailed descriptions and drawings of some of the 50 chosen churches. A light read it is not, which is likely to limit its appeal, but thank goodness there are people like Julian Flannery prepared to devote vast amounts of time to this type of endeavour; we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Nicholas Jacob is an architect who feels privileged to work on mediaeval churches in Suffolk and Essex, including two of the 50 churches described in Julian Flannery's book. Founder of NJ Architects, he is also Chairman of the Ipswich Historic buildings Trust.

JUDY STEPHENSON

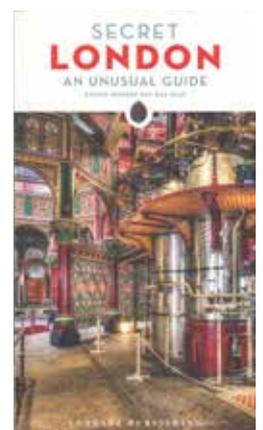
Secret London; an unusual guide
Rachel Howard and Bill Nash;
Jonglez Publishing, 6th edition
October 2016 382pp
ISBN: 978-2-36195-110-8
Price £12.99

Comments ... information on places we may not have mentioned are more than welcome.

Where to begin? True there are many places I had not heard of (it seems some of them are not open to the public ever) but I am going to try to wangle my way into some of them (otherwise what's the point?).

The book, which is of a shape to fit in a man's jacket pocket or a woman's handbag, is divided into areas: they are not walks eg: Marylebone to Shepherd's Bush, and covers the whole of Greater London. Some items are not that secret at all (Greenwich foot tunnel; the model of London Bridge at **St Magnus the Martyr**, Chelsea Physic Garden, cab shelters) and some secret places like the Roman floor mosaic in Ironmonger Lane are left out.

I am impatient with *St Bartholomew's the Greater* and the *Lesser*: there is no reason to get things like that wrong, and I worry about the suggestion that **St Dunstan in the West** might have more than its fair share of voodoo. **St Ethelburga** features, and I don't suppose that they will mind the Tent's being called the Peace Camp. The concerts at **St Stephen Walbrook** are praised. The book is eccentric, and it is clear that the authors have an affection for quirky London. There is a humorous entry for the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. This is a good natured book, which you can look at on the FCC shelves, but it won't be on mine.



THE MYSTERIOUS MR GRIFFIN -PERUKE MAKER & MUSIC PROFESSOR

What links the organs installed in **St Katherine Coleman** (1741), **St Helen Bishopsgate** (1744), and **St Margaret Pattens** (1749)? All were supplied by Thomas Griffin (c1706-1771), wholly or partly in exchange for an annuity on his life (and any surviving dependants). What prompted this initiative that others later followed?

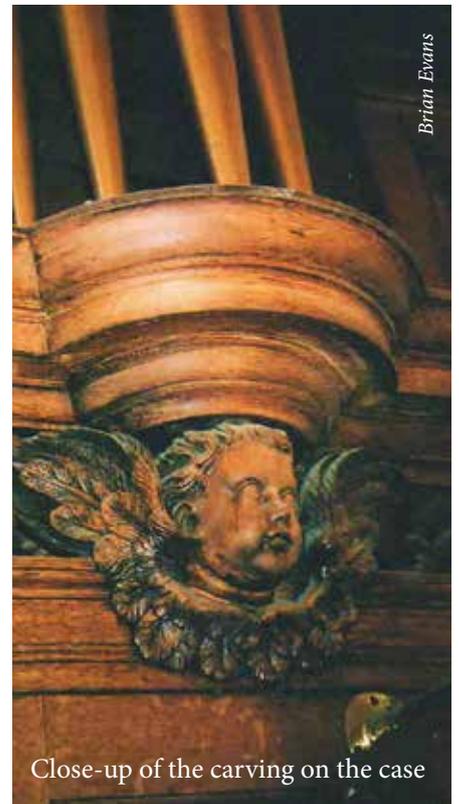
Son of a wharfinger, Griffin was apprenticed in 1720 to a barber in the Barber Surgeons' Company (and rose to Master in 1760); with the first organ he is titled a *peruke maker*, only on the last occasion an *organ builder*.

Perukes were a ready sideline for an ambitious barber. Their wear was declining (the Company later considered petitioning against natural hairstyles!), but there is no evidence that Griffin had any gift for organ-building, only a shrewd eye

for a business opportunity. All three churches lay close to Langbourn Ward where he had his barber's business (and became Common Councillor); St Katherine's, just rebuilt, an obvious spur to him to bring in the necessary craftsmen. The annuity provided mutual satisfaction, a common feature of C18 business life (Governments raised money by their sale) while the church gained organ, organist and upkeep for roughly an organist's salary. In *Sense and Sensibility* (begun 1799), Mrs Dashwood protests that annuitants *always live for ever*. However, all three churches were freed by his death in 1771!

MUSIC PROFESSOR

No one has explained fully Griffin's business but 'supplier' reflects contemporary opinion that his knowledge of music was *rudimentary*. Thus, as Gresham Professor of Music from 1763, he engaged his erstwhile rival for this position to deliver his inaugural address! Membership of the City's Gresham Committee probably secured the post, also giving him a free apartment in Mercers' Hall for his remaining life and £100 yearly. Nevertheless he successfully supplied a fourth organ solely for cash at **St Michael Bassishaw** (now lost) while the St Katherine instrument survived little altered until the church's demolition in 1926. The original organ cases and some pipe work can still be seen at St Helen's and St Margaret Pattens. The St Margaret Pattens' organ supports regular lunchtime choral services led by the church choir; an institution to treasure. Traditionally, each January this church has marked the anniversary of the death of King Charles I, (a service annexed to the Prayer Book until 1859), and in the C19 the organist here bore one of the most famous names in English church music. A *striking personality*, grand-daughter of Charles Wesley and daughter of Samuel, Eliza Wesley played at St Margaret's for forty years until 1886. The organ now needs major work, however; the church is planning a public appeal and details are awaited.



Close-up of the carving on the case

THE FINAL ELEVEN

Including the aforementioned, altogether eleven City Churches accepted annuity arrangements with different parties. All were outright owners by the time the last arrangement lapsed in 1871, just 100 years after Griffin died. Victorian demolition or wartime destruction accounted for the other eight organs, save one at **St Mary Aldermary**. The work of an undoubted organ-builder, Hugh Russell (1738-1825), its tone was in keeping with the since-dismantled west end organ loft. Sadly, now shorn of Russell's fine gothic case, it is rarely heard. A fitting coda, perhaps, is that Griffin's annuity organ idea later inspired the late C20 Private Finance Initiative which mined a similar, albeit larger vein! However Ecclesiastes (Ch1 v 9) reminds us *there is no new thing under the sun*.

Sources and further reading

DAWE, *Organists of the City of London 1666-1850*, Donovan Dawe, Padstow 1983

PEARCE, *Notes on Old London City Churches*, 1908 (in Guildhall Library)

DOBSON & WALTON, *Barbers and Barber-Surgeons of London*, Blackwell Scientific Publications, London 1979

PLUMLEY, *The Organs of the City of London*, Positif Press, Oxford 1996



St Margaaret Pattens' organ general view

ST ETHELBURGA BISHOPSGATE

TONY BALDRY

St Ethelburga's church in Bishopsgate is one of the oldest sacred and consecrated places in the City of London. The original church was built in Saxon times. St Ethelburga was one of those powerful, dynamic women of leadership in the early English Christian Church, who established an abbey at Barking.

For many years, the Saxon-based church served one of the smallest parishes in the City of London. But a parish not without influence or significance. It was at St Ethelburga's that Henry Hudson, the navigator and explorer, and his crew, took Communion immediately prior to setting sail to the New World.

Although still a consecrated church, and subject to faculty jurisdiction, St Ethelburga's is now owned by a charity, the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, which uses the church building and a permanent nomadic tent in the church garden as spaces to promote courses and training in peace and reconciliation. These cover a wide range of activities from supporting refugees to helping communities divided by conflict to seek to reconcile their differences.

At one time, Justin Welby, now Archbishop of Canterbury, chaired the Trustees and is now a Patron of the Charity, he along with Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nicholls, and Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner. Richard Chartres is a Life President of the Centre.

Holy Communion is still celebrated monthly and the church still continues

ST ETHELBURGA'S 2017

HELLENA CLEARY

Sometimes we may wonder exactly what the City churches do in the modern age. We are all familiar with the historic and architectural functions of the City churches, but do they serve a purpose? I would answer that question with a definite *yes*. Those churches with clergy or congregations: their function is obvious in that they provide a centre for Christian worship. Those churches that were designated Guild Churches have had a more problematic history.

The church of St Ethelburga the Virgin on Bishopsgate is a case in point.

In 1952, it was one of the churches that was to be relieved of parochial responsibilities and instead to minister to the working population of the City of London every day. *We shall have sixteen churches which have no permanent incumbent and which therefore can be used for any special purpose. The vicar of such a church will be relieved of the legal necessity of taking Divine Service on a Sunday, because the bulk of the people who work in the City are not there on a Sunday. Therefore he will have much more freedom to practise special techniques or to introduce new ways of doing Church work, which it is impossible to practise under the old and still traditional parochial system.*¹

Today, St Ethelburga still fulfils that laudable ambition in its function of the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. Because of its tragic history of the IRA bombing in 1993, which completely destroyed the church, it is appropriate that the function today is to attempt to work towards a reconciliation between different faiths and ideas and also to include a means for the spiritual development of all those individuals who come to the Centre. The Bedouin tent in the churchyard is a space open to all and was once an oasis of peace amidst the City noise and bustle and hopefully, when the behemoth next door is completed, it can become once again that oasis of peace.



The Friends awarded a grant of £2,000 towards refurbishment of the entrance lobby and screen. Here Oliver Leigh-Wood hands over our cheque to Sir Tony Baldry.

St Ethelburga's survived the ravages of the Great Fire, and the destruction of the Blitz, to be one of the oldest surviving churches in the City of London. Alas, however, the church was then destroyed as collateral damage to an IRA lorry bomb that had been parked in Bishopsgate. Due to the vision and leadership of Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, the City rallied and became determined to rebuild St Ethelburga's. The City Corporation, numerous Livery Companies, Trusts, private individuals, all donated generously to enable the rebuilding of the church of the proportion and design of the original.

to have close links with the City Livery Companies, particularly the Saddlers' Company which administers the proceeds of the estate of Mr Kitchin, who left a sizeable amount of land and property in 1556, part of the purpose of which was to support St Ethelburga Bishopsgate.

St Ethelburga's was once the tallest building in Bishopsgate - no longer! Today it is dwarfed by new construction and new developments, but it is still true to the Christian mission of well over a thousand years of promoting reconciliation and peace based on Christ's teachings.

The church's interior today is quite spartan: a result of its unfortunate history, but it contains many mementoes of the old building and some striking pieces of modern art: the stained glass window of St Ethelburga herself, the frolicking horses and the crown of thorns are there among other works, but the atmosphere changes completely on Sunday. Then it becomes one of the most populous congregations in the City considering its size. It is the home of St Nicholas Orthodox Church, a Moldavian congregation with many very young members and large numbers of christenings each year. The music is provided by a choir singing plainsong, candles held by the congregation are beautiful and the ikon and candelabra on the altar create a wonderful atmosphere.

St Ethelburga fulfils both purposes of a City church. It is both a centre for religious worship and an organisation that attempts to reach out and deal with one of the most serious problems of the modern world: that people should reach out and meet each other and understand each other rather than deal with their fellow human beings with hatred and suspicion.

To learn more about The Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, and to meet the staff who work at the centre, please check their website.



Cross of nails from Coventry

Note HANSARD City of London (Guild Churches) Bill
HL Debate 03 July 1952 vol 177
cc673-6, The Lord Bishop of London

The Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry PC DL is Chair of Trustees of the Centre for Conciliation and Peace and also Parish Clerk St Ethelburga Bishopsgate. He is Chairman of the Church Buildings Council, the statutory body providing advice to General Synod, chancellors, Diocesan Advisory Committees and others on all matters relating to the Church of England's 16,000 church buildings.

BEASTS AT ST BRIDE'S?

PETER LIVOCK

No, not a Fleet Street media feeding-frenzy nor the thundering-herd of Merrill Lynch, but livestock.

Peter Livock duly trotted along to this event, planned by Shepherd Publishing, in celebration of the British livestock industry and in support of the London City Farms which were first created in Kentish Town, aptly enough, in 1972 and soon grew to more than 25 by 1977.

Forget counting sheep across London Bridge - from the steps of St Paul's Cathedral down to Fleet Street was the place to be that crisp Thursday morning 8 December as the HAC Light Cavalry, shepherded by their Padre, joined Past Masters of both the Worshipful Companies of Poulterers and Farriers arriving at St Bride's.

As well as from the HAC Padre, readings were heard from Alderman Peter Hewitt JP, Master of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, and Philip Wynn, Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, with closing prayers from the Hon Chaplain to the British Guild of Agricultural Journalists.

St Bride's Rector welcomed her flock, with the St Bride's Choir and Organist Matthew Morley expertly leading the congregation in some well-loved and well-trodden favourites such as: *While shepherds watched their flocks by night* and *Once in royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed* and in their own moving performance of Harold Darke's *In the bleak mid-winter* and Matthew Morley's own arrangement of *Angels* by William Chambers.

Howard Venters, of Shepherd Publishing's reading of *Do they know* and Milly Fyfe's *Reflection on Farming* gave all a crucial 'pause-to-thought' about the enduring importance of these ancient-and-modern farming skills to our hectic lives, or as Leonardo da Vinci (probably) said: *Learn how to see - Realise that everything connects to everything else.*

The last address, and a more personal appeal for continuing support for the London City Farms, including that at Spitalfields people were reminded, was by Liz Appleby from Woodlands Farm Trust whose own sheep were safely penned outside in the churchyard, far from their usual haunt in the ancient Oxlea Woods, out at Shooters Hill. It was strange to think that Watling Street ran from St Paul's nearby to pass down there, one of the highest points in London at over 430 feet and one of the last remaining areas of open farmland in inner London.

Perhaps that was the important point to leave people to ruminate on; that ancient deciduous forest - parts of which date back over 8,000 years to the end of the last ice age - being connected by the walkway used by ancient Britons and then the Romans to the City of London; and that St Bride's area, where people were gathered outside the City walls to the west, had been - at a less secure and a less prosperous time in the City's dark age history - itself used for agriculture (probably).

Anyway, hopefully, it wasn't mutton, even dressed as lamb, that was eaten at the Stationers' Hall lunch reception afterwards ...

Peter Livock



This is third in our occasional series of those named on the Travers war memorial. A faculty application is being prepared to site the memorial on the wall under the tower of **St Mary Abchurch**. *Ed*

HENRY WILLIAM BROWN

ELAINE EDGE

Henry William Brown's army career was brief and eventful – culminating in his early death in 1915 in hospital while a prisoner of war in Germany.

He was born in 1896 in Bow, and was the youngest surviving child of Henry Brown and his wife Alice. Henry senior is recorded on the 1911 Census as aged 38, living at 156 Devons Road, Bow, and a home decorator. Alice was the same age. Henry, aged 14, is at home with his parents, and his sister, Alice, aged 17, a tailoress. Henry junior has no occupation given. Thereafter he disappears from researched record until his enlistment: in fact there is no record of working for Joseph Travers & Sons apart from his entry in the Travers' 1917 booklet *For King and Country* where he is recorded as being in the Scots Guards and dying a prisoner of war in a German hospital in early 1915.

The 1891 census showed that Henry senior was at that time employed as a 'tea grocer warehouseman' (living at 15 Selsey Street, Limehouse), and this suggests that if the tea warehouse in question was that of Travers, it is possible that Henry had retained a strong enough link with them to suggest that his son find employment with them when he came of age to look for work.

Henry's army number suggests he enlisted at Stratford between 31 August and 3 September 1914. To be eligible for the Scots Guards, he must have been a tall young man of at least 5' 10". He was in the 1st Battalion Scots Guards Private 9699. He disembarked in France on 14 January 1915.

The War Diary of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards then picks up his story for it records that they were in billets at Bethune between 15-20 January 1915. On 23-24 January, the Battalion was moved to the trenches at Cuincy. A graphic description of what followed is then recorded:

25 Jan At 6.30 a German deserter reported that an attack was going to be made in ½ hour, bombardment first, and then our trenches were to be blown in by previously made mines. After an hour all happened as deserter had said. 5 RF and 40 LF got away. Their story is as follows – The Germans first shelled them, then got out of their trench and attacked half right, then threw bombs in, got to the lip of the parapet and shot down into the trenches. The Germans afterwards swarmed up to the 'keep' where Major Romilly was. There they were checked and held. Reinforcements came up and a counter attack was delivered at 1 pm but did not retake much ground. Battalion was relieved at 4 pm by Sussex Regt.

The Scots Guards' War Diaries record that in their action at the Keep & the surrounding brickstacks the Guards lost 1 officer killed, 1 wounded and 7 missing with 27 other ranks killed, 120 wounded and 235 missing.

It was worth quoting this in full because Henry was posted as missing in action on 25 January 1915, so would have been one of those 235 men referred to above. The Regimental History of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards gives further details.

At last on the night of the 13th/14th the battalion was relieved and sent back to Bethune. It took two hours to rescue two men who had got up to their armpits in mud. But the prospect of Bethune was welcome. As one officer writes; What Joy! Bath! Sleep! And a change of clothes! I have not had my shirt or trousers off since New Years Eve.

After a week of clearing up, refitting and being inspected at Bethune, the battalion returned on 23 January to Cuinchy trenches. It had been reinforced on the 11th by Maj A C Morrison-Bell and

Lt H Hammersley with 160 men. Behind the Scots Guards' trenches at a distance of about 500 yards was the 'Keep' formed by linking up four brickstacks with walls of loose bricks, so as to form a square fort with the brickstacks as the corners.

For the flank companies holding the front trenches we are mainly dependent on letters written from Germany by Maj Morrison-Bell of the R F company, who was taken prisoner. No officer got back from the front trenches and very few men. When he arrived at Friedberg in Hesse, he found 32 of his men with Sergeant Young were his fellow prisoners.

The recently opened Red Cross POW Archives (apparently a list of prisoners held that was issued by the Germans) of 23 January 1915 records Henri Brown Private 1 Scots Guards English Ypres Gardelegen (Des Soldats Anglaises 4 Comp).

News of him reached the UK in May and was published in the *Aberdeen Journal* of 7 May, which states that he was *previously reported wounded and is now reported a prisoner of war.*

This news seems to have prompted his mother to write to the Red Cross, their POW cards record: *Demande de nouvelles du 7 Juin de Mrs A Brown, 156 Devon Road Bow.* This request for news resulted in enquiries being made to Gardelegen POW camp on 26 June by the Red Cross. By 5 July the news arrived that Henry was no longer at Gardelegen.

Next we have the Army Register of Soldiers' Effects, which records that Brown, Henry William Scots Guards Private 9699, died on 31 March 1915 at hospital in Gardelegen. Back pay and allowances totalling £6 14s 4d were paid to his father on 6 November 1915.

He is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial in the Pas de Calais. This memorial has the names of 13,400 British soldiers who were killed on the Western Front between October 1914 and September 1915 and have no known grave.

So far, the details of Henry's internment at Gardelegen, and his exact cause of death there in March 1915, are unknown. Gardelegen was a registration camp; prisoners were often only there for a few days before going to a satellite or work camp. However it was a soldiers' camp (ie not for officers), and the lack of information and documentation, not to say confusion, surrounding his death, suggests that he may have died during the typhus epidemic that raged there at this time which claimed about 300, and been buried in haste, possibly in a mass grave and during a period of quarantine. This may explain why his grave was unrecorded and he is on a memorial to the missing in France.

The conditions in the German camps were notorious. The close confinement of the accommodation and the density of prisoners (averaging 250 per barracks) resulted in outbreaks of cholera and typhus, which then spread fast in the foul air and overcrowded



Monument dated 1914 at a Gardelegen City Cemetery to British, Belgian, French & Russian POWs who died in captivity, possibly constructed by the prisoners themselves

conditions. Henry was awarded the Victory and British War 1915 Star medals. His war gratuity was just the minimum sum of £3.

For the tall young 18 year old from Bow, who had enlisted as soon as he was of age, his military career was tragically brief - events must have unfolded with terrifying speed -

enlistment, arrival in France, a ferocious German attack, being taken prisoner, and death, - all encompassed within a brief eight months. For his family, the months must have seemed correspondingly long as they sought and waited in vain for information on his fate that did not come until the final and belated news of his death months after the event.

CAROL SERVICE 2016

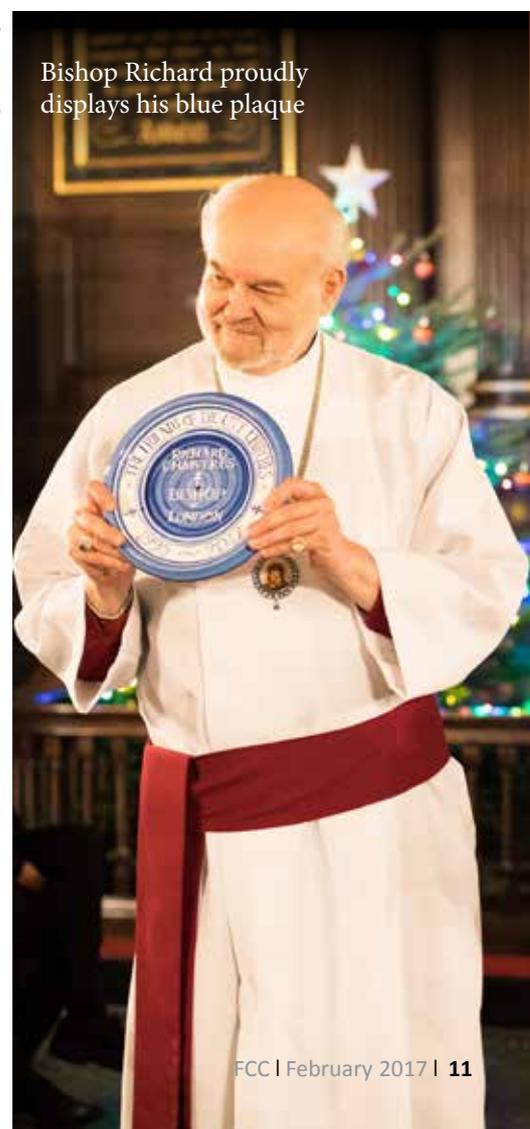
It may now be well past Epiphany, never mind Christmas but this event was special and we hope will be fondly remembered by the officiant as well as those of us lucky enough to squeeze in. Bishop Richard made special space in his full diary to take our service at **St Mary Abchurch**; his journey there and back from The Old Deanery was not without its moments either but he was unperturbed. The congregation sung lustily led by Haberdasher Aske's Hatcham College Choir and the Bishop was, well, just as he always is: kind, thoughtful and entertaining whilst opening windows on to the important feast of Christmas. And he was obviously pleased to be with us. He had some *bon mots* when offered our gifts to him after the service (the 'blue plaque' fashioned as if by Historic England, presented in a Pizza Express box tied with purple ribbon *I've never*

been given a Margherita pizza before) and also an inscribed citation of thanks to our Patron; *This is getting more like a memorial than a retirement.* We wish him a long and healthy retirement. Part of his monument, as Wren before him, is the activity and liveliness in the OPEN churches of the City: *Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice.*

STOP PRESS At Bishop Richard's final service on 2 February, he and 200 clergy welcomed crowds in a pop-up cathedral in Paternoster Square as well as the Wren building. The Bishop told the crowd: *I began life as an ink monitor in a primary school. I retire in a digital world. It's a long distance from steel nibs and copperplate to smart apps and the Twittersphere, but it gives us an opportunity of communicating.*

The Richard Chartres Fund has been launched in thanksgiving for his 21 years service and aims to raise at least £1.4M *to ensure that at the heart of every community there is a confident, compassionate and creative church.*

Alexy Moskovin



Bishop Richard proudly displays his blue plaque

MORE MERCHANDISE

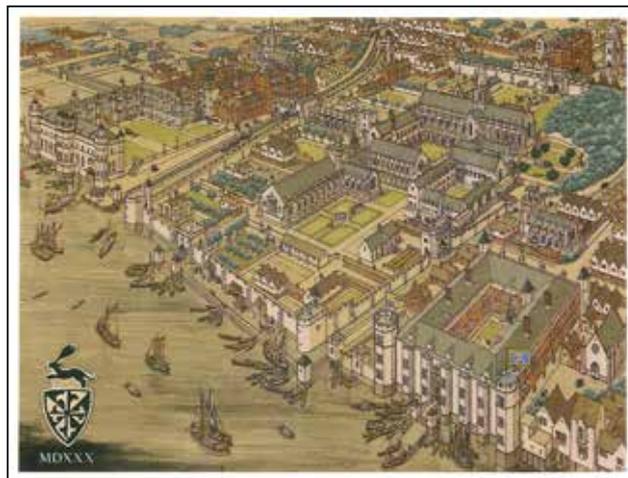
On those rainy days, take shelter under the beautiful **St Mary Abchurch** dome from a photo by Trustee Alexey Moskvina.

◆ TELESCOPIC UMBRELLA, MANUAL OPEN

£15 plus £3 P&P

◆ STORM-PROOF WALKING UMBRELLA, AUTO OPEN

£35 Collection only, Monday to Thursday after 1.30pm
Available in late February.



◆ BLANK CARD FEATURING AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF BLACK FRIARS MONASTERY IN 1530

£5 for 10 including envelopes

✉ LETTERS

Martin Woods, Past Master Parish Clerk has sent the following cutting from *City Chimes* October 1938 Vol 6 no 10:

The Editor *City Chimes*

Dear Sir

May I as one who is proud to call myself a Londoner and who rejoices in the heritage of our City churches, thank you all for all your endeavours through *City Chimes* to promote, foster, and extend the interest and usefulness of these houses of God. May they continue to stand inviolate, a perpetual reminder of the faith of our fathers, and a continual source of inspiration and usefulness for us today and all those that are to follow in our steps.

I am, yours faithfully

**Oswald W H Clark,
426 Streatham High Road SW16.**

LONG-STANDING SUPPORTER

Oswald Clark CBE died just before Christmas 2016 in his 100th year. He was great supporter of our Friends, gave us a talk about the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks at one of our AGMs, was himself a Past Master Parish Clerk, and sometime churchwarden and Parish Clerk of **St Andrew by the Wardrobe**. He lived and breathed the City churches and their mission to those of the City and beyond. He masterminded with The Revd John Paul a response to the Templeman Report entitled *A more Excellent Way* which was instrumental in overturning the conclusions of Lord Templeman and paved the way for Bishop Richard Chartres to find creative uses for all the extant churches of that time. *Ed*

CITY CHURCH NEWS

St Bartholomew the Great and Less (Great St Bartholomew)

The Rector, The Revd Dr Martin Dudley resigned on 31 December 2016 and the Venerable Peter Delaney is in charge pending a new appointment by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

St Michael Cornhill

The Rt Revd Stephen Platten retired as priest in charge on 31 December 2016.

St Martin Ludgate

The Revd Rachel Hawes retired as priest in charge on 30 September 2016. The Stationers' Company has taken over the management of the gallery accommodation.

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www.london-city-churches.org.uk

May deadline 7 April 2017 *The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Trustees*

THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY CHURCHES

St Mary Abchurch Abchurch Lane London EC4N 7BA contact_us@london-city-churches.org.uk Registered charity no 1155049