The Friends of the City Churches

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

YEAR-END REVIEW

THE FRIENDS of the CITY CHURCHES www.london-city-churches.org.uk

Highlights 2016-17

Membership

- Membership Administration database (MADS)
- 1024 active members: 765 single, 259 joint, 10 Life

Skyline, members' quarterly magazine (Paul Simmons & Judy Stephenson)

- Also posted to ~70 churches & honorary members

City Events listings, 10 issues p.a. (John Reynolds & Ingrid Slaughter)

Members' events

- 11 walks, 4 lectures, 7 visits (Signe Hoffos & City Guides)
- Bell service 27 June 2016
- Carol service 9 December 2016 with Bishop Richard Chartres (Nancy Branson)
- Chairman's Birthday Concert 8 February 2017

Highlights 2016-17

Merchandise

- Visitors' Guide, Sword Rests (Tony Tucker)
- Special offers including stained glass & Post-Fire churches
- Two Christmas cards
- Sold-out calendar: 'Music in the City Churches' (Liz Simpson)
- Ceramic mug, pencils
- Two umbrellas (Alexey Moskvin)

St Mary Abchurch

- Wednesday communion (Fr David Goodburn)
- Tuesday organ concert (Ian Shaw)
- Sunday service by the Chaplaincy to Russian Speakers in the Diocese of London
- The Revd Craig Barber (1971-2017)

Highlights 2016-17

St Mary Abchurch management & hire (David Jessop)

- Fruiterers' service 25 January 2017
- Private services: Tyndale Society, CMS Cameron McKenna, first christening in 20 years
- AA, Orlando Choir, Magnificat Choir, Chinese Philharmonic Choir
- TfL Bank Station upgrade
- Re-wiring scheme

Church Watching (Brian Evans)

- 17 churches
- Rota managers Hellena Cleary, Peter Eaton, Barbara Figg, Mary-Ann Tarver, Lesley Thrift, Marion Watson, Trevor Bates & Judy Guy Briscoe

Outreach

- Open House Weekend
- St Lawrence Jewry Music Festival
- Great Fire 350

Highlights 2016-17

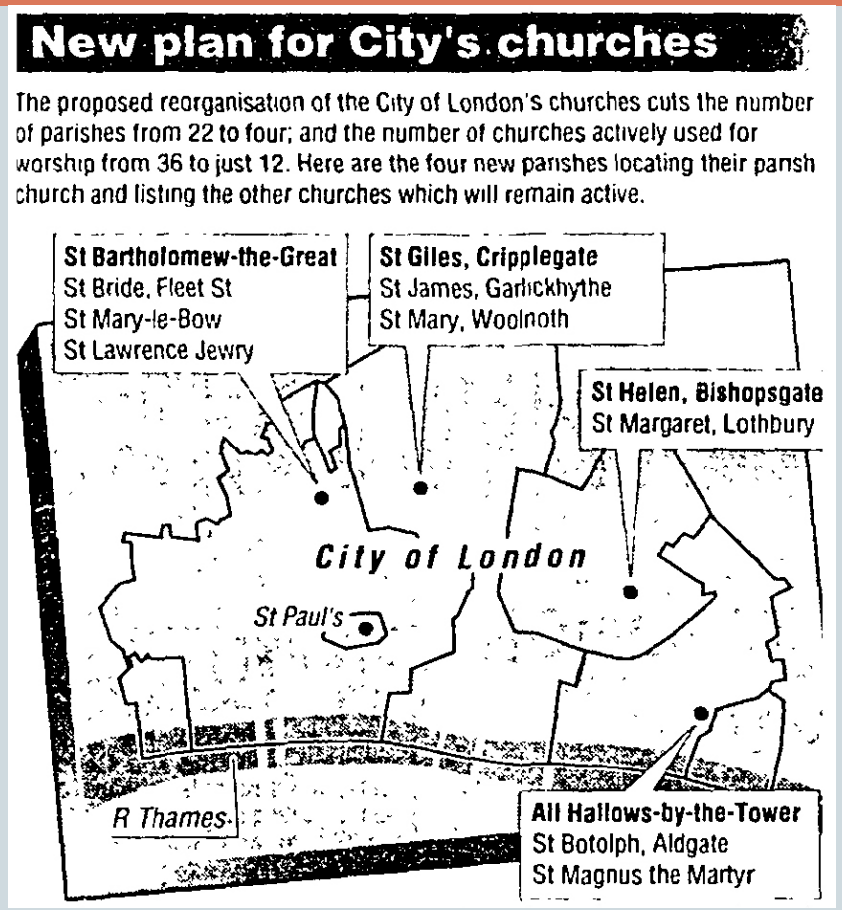
Small grants programme

- Dutch Church 'Tree of Life' tapestry by Hans van Norden
- St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace
- St Mary Abchurch Mothers' Union banner
- St Benet's Welsh Church poorbox

The Friends of the City Churches

WHAT NEXT?

How it all began



- 1992-94: The Templeman Report
  - 4 parishes, 12 churches
  - 23 churches 'reserved' for other uses (offices, tourism)
- 1994: Revival of the dormant Friends of the City Churches, through SAVE & The Friends of Friendless Churches
- 1995: Church Watching, through Melba Coombs & NADFAS
- 1996: Bishop Richard Chartres

Aims & objectives

St Lawrence Jewry (Christopher Webb)

To preserve & protect for the public benefit:

- Churches & chapels of architectural and/or historic interest
- Their monuments, fittings, fixtures, organs, stained glass, furniture, ornaments & chattels
- Their churchyards & burial grounds

To encourage London's residents, workers & visitors to visit, use & enjoy the City churches

Aims & objectives

- To improve public access > Church Watchers, Open House, St Lawrence Jewry music festival
- To organise & promote services & events > City Events (print & PDF)
- To produce literature & promotional material > guides, map
- To assist with repair, maintenance, reconstruction & refurbishment > Small Grants Scheme (≤ £2000), large accessible reserve
- To preserve & protect > campaigning

Membership

- Support the work of the FCC > Watchers, grants, outreach
- > 1000 memberships, single & joint
- New: Life Membership
- Members' benefits include:
  - Skyline (four issues annually)
  - Walks, talks, visits
  - Annual carol service
  - FCC merchandise

St Mary Abchurch 2013-2018

- Previous offices in St Margaret Pattens & St Magnus the Martyr
- 14 May 2013: St Mary Abchurch
- Making good, maintenance & refurbishment
- Weekday communion & organ concert
- Sunday guest congregation
- Evening meetings & rehearsals
- Occasional weddings & baptisms

Aspirations & limitations

Resources:

- 10 to 12 working Trustees each year
- Part-time administrator
- ~100 active volunteers
- St Mary Abchurch

Potential:

- More paid staff?
- Dedicated marketing, membership, and/or education officers?
- Selling FCC expertise & experience as consultancy?

Ways forward:

- Higher profile?
- More members?
- Corporate members?
- More members' activities?
- More outreach activities?
- More publications? Online?
- Education pack, school visits?
- More/different use of SMAb?
- Another church?
- More fund-raising & giving?