



The Friends Office, St Anne's Church, Kew, TW9 3AA
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CONTRIBUTION – RESTORATION – CONSERVATION

26TH May 2020

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to be writing to you as Chairman of The Friends of St Anne's Church, Kew, and most importantly in these unprecedented times trusting that you and your family are keeping safe and well.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Trustees of The Friends of St Anne's Church, Kew, thank you so much for your support and generous contributions over the past year.

In this constantly changing and disquieting time the committee and I held a virtual committee meeting just recently to explore how we can move forward with the charity whilst complying with existing government restrictions. You will see in the Notice and Agenda that this year's AGM will be held virtually by Zoom on Saturday 27th June 2020 at 11.am. The Zoom link to join the meeting will be sent out a few days before. We realise this is not satisfactory for all our members particularly those without internet access and can only send you our sincerest apologies. If those members wish to raise any questions do please notify the Secretary Ben Jones as listed on the Notice and Agenda documents. Considering how we might move forward with our fundraising programme with the uncertainty of knowing when we would be able to resume our events safely in the Parish Hall or St Anne's Church is under review constantly at present. With the explosion of online and virtual alternatives open to us, we are exploring virtual methods of running our events considering initially on a trial basis until we know more from the government. We will keep you updated on our discussions and keep you informed via our website and emails.

I will now tell you a little more detail about our achievements and performance over this past year.

Our Statement of Accounts for the year ending 5th April 2020, shows reserves of £22,587, a decrease of £18,825 on last year of 45%. Our expenditure increased as expected to £37,608 from £683 on the previous year due to donations to St Anne's PCC of £37,063 towards our churchyard wall fundraising project. We are very pleased to report that due to the generous donations from you our members and the income generated from our fund-raising events, we are very close to having raised the remaining balance of £25,745 - 41% to complete the wall renovation having paid to date 59%. We anticipate that the balance required of £3,158 will be generated by the completion of our membership renewals this Spring / Summer 2020 thus completing the total funding of the churchyard wall of £62,847.

Once this project is complete, the Executive Committee have submitted a proposal for the next fundraising project to the PCC to restore and repair St Anne's Churchyard which is part of St Anne's Master Plan.

We had another full programme of Fundraising events starting in April 2019 as follows: Saturday 6th April, A Talk by TATE MODERN Curator Matthew Gale 'PIERRE BONNARD - THE COLOUR OF MEMORY'; Monday 20th May 'CHRISTIAN DIOR – DESIGNER of DREAMS' –A Talk by Emma Treleaven from the Dior Curatorial team at the V&A; Wednesday 16th October 'ICONIC BIBA – Barbara Hulanicki OBE – Is it TIMELESS & AGELESS?' A Talk by Lorraine Neale who worked with Barbara; Saturday 16th November 'CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS, A Celebration of Festive Lore' A Talk & Book Signing by George Goodwin MA FRHistS FRSA; Saturday 7th December 'THE KILLING IN THE CONSULATE – Investigating the Life & Death of Jamal Khashoggi' A Talk & Book Signing by Jonathan Rugman CH 4 News Foreign Correspondent; Saturday 25th January 'ADAM FROST & his Journey' A Talk & Book signing by Adam Frost, RHS Ambassador & BBC Presenter; Thursday 6th February 'PHILHARMONIA CHAMBER PLAYERS' – A Candlelit Recital by Three renowned Chamber Players; Saturday 29th February, 'NELSON, THE NILE, NAPLES & LADY HAMILTON' A Talk by Sir David Durie, KCMG; Tuesday 10th March. 'A PRIVATE TOUR OF LONDON'S ICONIC PUBS OF THE CITY OF LONDON' By Paul Davies, Beer Judge, Sommelier and PCC Member.

After that last Event we still had a very interesting programme of Spring and Autumn events all planned and confirmed but then with the Covid-19 pandemic lock-down sadly we were forced to postpone.

Here is a list of the Spring 2020 Postponed events as follows.

Saturday 14th March 'THE GEORGIAN VISITOR' 'A Vignette of Garden Visiting in the Eighteenth Century' A Talk by Richard Wheeler, The National Trust Specialist in Garden History; Saturday 25th April 'THE PERSONALITIES WHO SHAPED GUNNERSBURY' A Talk by David Bowler, Chief Executive the Gunnersbury Estate; Monday 18th May 'BRITAIN AS WORKSHOP OF THE WORLD' 'The Great Exhibition of 1851 & the establishment of the Victoria & Albert Museum' A Talk by Anna Warrillow Blue-Badge Guide, University Art History Lecturer & Ex-Curator at the V&A; Saturday 20th June 'THE ART OF INNOVATION - From Enlightenment to Dark Matter' The New Book by Sir Ian Blandford Director of the Science Museum & Dr Tilly Blyth Head of Collections & Principal Curator of the Science Museum. Talk and Book Signing by Dr Tilly Blyth Head of Collections & Principal Curator of the Science Museum.

We do also have several Autumn 2020 events as follows:

Thursday 10th September 2020 'RAPHAEL: A MASTER IN THE MAKING' - 2020 is an important year marking the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death, which will be commemorated by several important exhibitions and events worldwide, including the National Gallery Opening October 2020. A Talk by Siân Walters MA (Cantab) - Siân is an art historian and lectures for the National Gallery, The Arts Society, The Wallace Collection and many other art societies in the UK and Europe; Saturday 28th November 2020 'AN AFTERNOON CHARITY BRIDGE DRIVE WITH SUPPER' Organised by Tina Ruygrok; Saturday 5th December 2020 'THE PRINCESS'S GARDEN - Royal Intrigue and the Untold Story of Kew' A Talk & Book Signing by Vanessa Berridge – Writer of Garden History.

We sincerely hope that with such interesting and eminent speakers we can reschedule these postponed and planned events into either Autumn 2020 or Spring 2021.

Regarding the actual selling of our event tickets, as I alluded to last year in my letter, we were beginning to see an increase in the online facility to buy tickets and this increase has continued. In

addition, during this past year we also introduced the facility to buy tickets in church on a Sunday after the service with a credit or debit card via an iZettle machine and this has proved successful.

Wendy Booth our Membership Secretary administers our members tirelessly. At the end of the 2019 / 2020 subscription year we reached 163 members, compared to 154 members at the end of the previous subscription year. We have had 15 new members during this past year and currently it is at 142 with some renewals still being received for 2020 / 2021.

Paul Booth continues to administer our website www.friendsofstanneskew.org.uk, where people can join and renew online and conveniently purchase tickets for our many events.

We continued to produce our Christmas card selection and this year the Christmas Card Art Design Competition with St Anne's Junior Church was, as I mentioned last year, extended to the Queen's School. As in the previous year all the five winners received a National Book Token as a prize. Unfortunately, this card selection did not prove to be as successful as we had hoped. We anticipated that many parents would buy cards that their children had designed but it did not happen. We did re-order two of the other designs that we have run for two or three years and will carry over those to next Christmas. We have come to the conclusion that young parents do not buy many Christmas cards and in general there is a move away from exchanging traditional Christmas cards to other charitable donations. Therefore in light of declining sales and interest in cards, we have decided not to run a children's competition this year or order any further new designs. The following small analysis demonstrates the decline in income of Christmas cards over the past three years.

INCOME: 2019 / 2020: **£959 – 9%** 2018 / 2019: **£1051 - 44%** 2017 / 2018: **£1520**

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all those that have served relentlessly on The Friends Executive Committee over the past year. These are Paul Booth, Webmaster, Wendy Booth, Membership Secretary, George Chesman, Treasurer, Bill Cottle, Churchwarden, Phyllis Cunningham, Ben Jones, Secretary, Cate Lyon, Churchwarden, Linda Pethick, Gemma Roundell and our President Fr Nigel Worn. Unfortunately George Chesman has decided to step down and we are pleased to welcome Simon Mollett as our new Treasurer.

On behalf of The Friends of St Anne's Executive Committee, may we thank you all so much for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you at our virtual AGM on Saturday 27th June 2020. In anticipation we do hope we can welcome you as a valued member of The Friends to our fundraising events in the future in an appropriate and safe setting.

Meanwhile do stay safe and well in these changing and unpredictable times.

Yours Sincerely

Lorraine Neale
Chairman, The Friends of St Anne's Church, Kew

Registered charity No. 1085389

President: The Reverend Nigel J Worn